SEPTEMBER 7, 2000 [53.5]

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Martlet

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Student Loans ...Ahh!

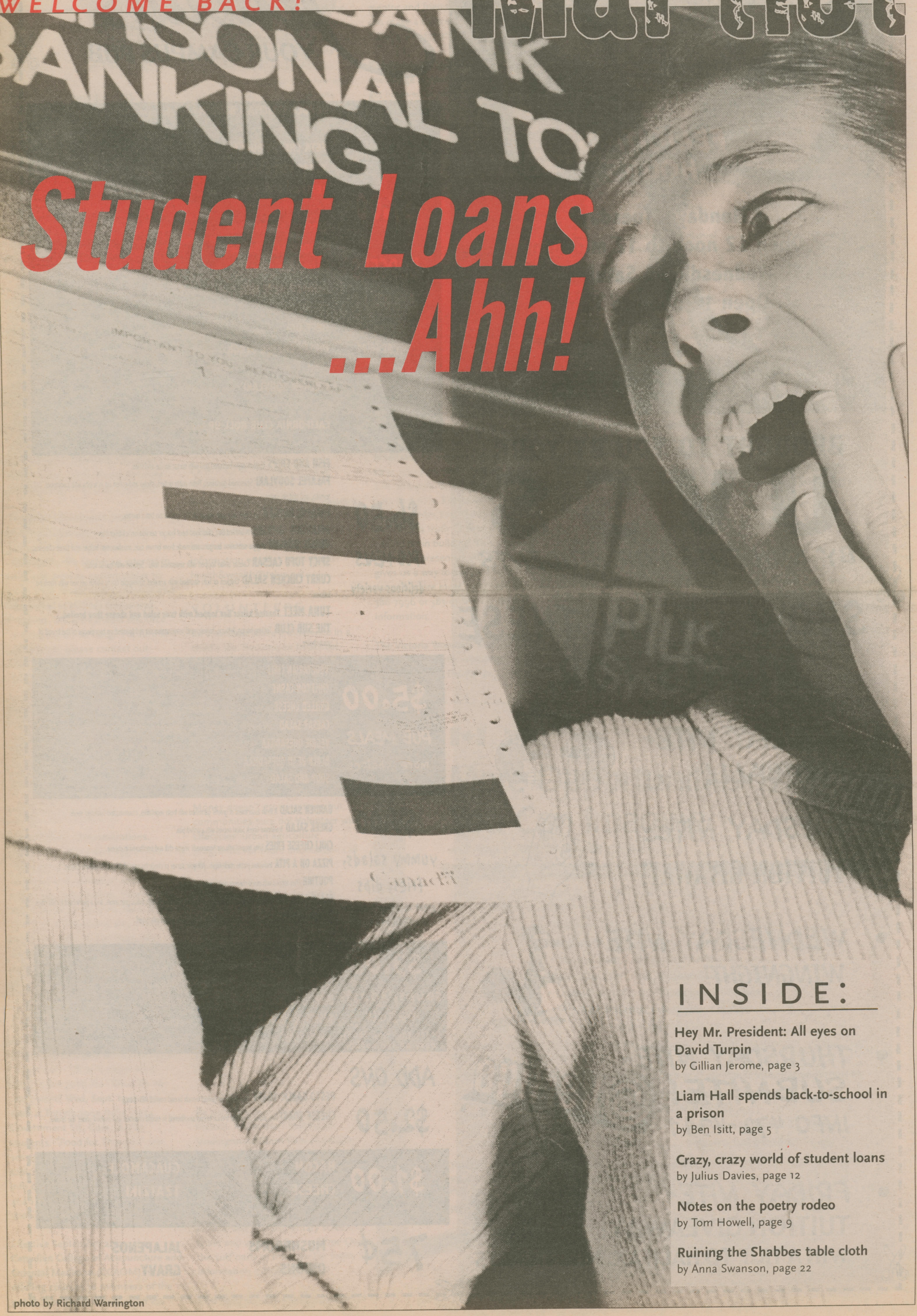

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photo by Richard Warrington

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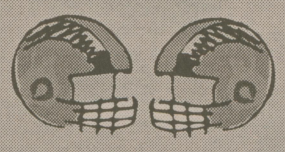
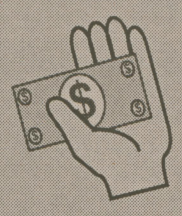


- TUESDAY NITE- TUITION GIVAWAY!



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FALAFEL BURGER Lots of herbs and spices in this garbanzo bean burger.

FELICITA'S BURGER A broiled 6oz seasoned beef burger served on a kaiser bun.

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SPICY TOFU CAESAR Caesar salad topped with seasoned tofu. Served with garlic toast.

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CAESAR SALAD Crisp romaine lettuce, croutons, parmesan cheese, and Caesar dressing. Served with garlic toast.

VEGGIE QUESADILLA Seasoned onions, peppers, and cheese grilled in a flour tortilla. Served with sour cream and salsa.

BLACK BEAN QUESADILLA Seasoned black beans with onion, tomato, and cheese . Served with sour cream and salsa.

SOUP AND SALAD A fresh garden salad served with your choice of our daily soups.

$4.00 yummy salads, fries, dips — great snacking foods or small meals

GARDEN SALAD A fresh assortment of greens garnished with fresh vegetables, croutons, and sunflower seeds.

GREEK SALAD Traditional Greek Salad served with a grilled pita.

CHILI CHEESE FRIES Fries topped with our homemade veggie chili and smothered in cheese.

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ONIONS **GRAVY**

New presidential "mastermind" gets chilly welcome

All eyes on Harris-bred David Turpin as he takes the reigns this week

by Gillian Jerome

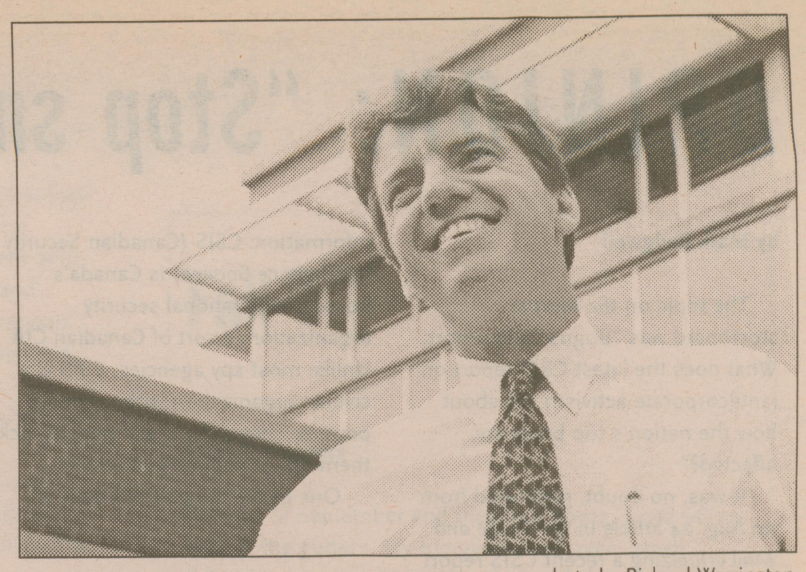


photo by Richard Warrington

David Turpin outside of the Business and Economics Building.

UVic's new president hasn't even had the chance to settle into his new digs, and skeletons from his old closet are already haunting him.

David Turpin, 44, took over the top seat from David Strong on Sept. 1 after being lambasted by a former Queen's University student on national radio for actions he took while he was vice-principal of academics at the Kingston university.

Last week CBC Radio interviewed Steven Kammerer who fought Turpin tooth and nail over a controversial policy on de-regulating tuition.

In the interview, Kammerer described Turpin as a smooth talker with a Draconian bent towards public education.

"He believes the future is in corporate funding, and he's given up the game of pressuring government to maintain public support," said Kammerer. "I can just hear the knives sharpening."

Faculty involved in the five-month search for the new prez say he was maligned by the radio report.

"I think [Kammerer] had a political axe to grind," says Dr. Geraldine Van Gyn, director of the campus's learning and teaching centre, who represented the faculty of education on the 24-member presidential search committee.

"[Kammerer] didn't talk about the political climate that forced the university to increase tuition fees. Frankly, it was poor journalism."

UVic sociology professor Holly Devor says she hasn't heard the bad press and defends the committee's careful choice. "We'll see what kind of job he does and wish him well."

Turpin's has both academic credentials and local credibility. An island-bred boy from Duncan, his resumé is jacked with accolades for both his scientific research and his work as an administrator.

With a Ph.D in biological oceanography from UBC, he headed the school's botany department before jumping up a few rungs to the Dean of Arts and Science at Queen's.

Skepticism about Turpin's appointment stems from his term as vice principal at Queen's, which coincided with a government led by Mike Harris.

The Tory premier's slash-and-burn experiment with Ontario's post-secondary education budget led several Ontario universities to de-regulate tuition.

At Queen's, staff, faculty and students chose to cope with the cuts by raising tuition, jacking fees as high as $35,000 for an MBA in Science and Technology, while medicine sits at $9,384, law at $5,903, applied science at $5,500 and arts and science at $3,951.

Those numbers dwarf UVic's tuition by comparison where fees have remained at $2,265 during the past five years, as a result of a tuition freeze legislated by the NDP government.

But higher tuition fees aren't the only obvious clues pointing to a cultural clash.

Students and alumni at Canada's oldest university are gearing up for the annual homecoming game, donning school jackets and hailing the Golden Gaels football team with a chorus of bagpipes and fraternity songs.

The question is how well Turpin will fare at a school where the welcome wagon is organizing Earth Fest, and offering tours through UVic's scenic Mystic Vale.

Elitism makes Queen's famous. Kathleen Cowick, president of Queen's graduate and professional students' union, says her fellow students aren't the kind "ready to rally against tuition fee hikes off the bat."

She describes an atmosphere where most students can afford to shell out the bucks to maintain the quality of their education, a position she says Turpin often promoted among faculty and students.

"He's a bottom line kind of guy. He'll take money from the most flexible reserve and usually that's students or corporations, provided they're not jeopardizing the interests of the university."

Turpin himself spurns suggestions that he doesn't support a publicly funded system open to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay for it.

While Queen's is on the fast track to privatization, Turpin says he's ready for a change. "The privatization model that Mike Harris is pushing I just don't believe in. I think one of the things that really attracted me to UVic was the fact that's it's a political environment that's supportive of public education and that wasn't the case in Ontario."

To get an idea of the extent of the political clash between campuses, Cowick says Queen's has only just began to look at the possibility of a policy on ethical investing. (Thanks to an activist-led student goverment, UVic's board of governors has had a policy on ethical investing since 1997.)

In a strange Robin Hood-style arrangement, Queen's opted for de-regulation with a guarantee that 30 per cent of fees generated from increases be reinvested in student bursaries.

"Not everyone supports the decision to increase tuition. It's the best choice out of a lot of bad choices," says Cowick, whose law school tuition will hit the $8,000 mark by 2003. "It's strange. It's sort of like when two stores offer the same pair of shoes at two different prices. You assume the more expensive ones are better. That's what it's like between schools in Ontario."

Queen's isn't a lone ranger in the move toward privatization in an increasingly competitive academic market. Two years ago Ralph Klein's government introduced legislation to allow private degree granting programs. In January, McGill's arts faculty voted to look into the creation of a private liberal arts college which if established would charge an estmated $28,000 a year.

Although UVic hasn't inched toward deregulation, B.C. is no virgin to privatization. A $100 million private college project led by former UBC president David Strangway is slated to begin construction in Squamish next year.

Regardless of critics who align him with corporatization, Turpin maintains he's a staunch defender of a public system – as far as Queen's goes, he did what he had to do. "People are justifiably concerned about the deregulation of tuition," said Turpin. "Mike Harris did incredible damage in Ontario... And the challenge was to work with students to try and move forward."

"In many cases, I was the guy who said no... My job as academic VP was to watch the values of the insitution and I turned down some very substantial gifts."

But Turpin's critics say he took Harris' cost-cutting policies lying down, and warn that students at UVic should be concerned that access isn't Turpin's top priority.

"Administrators at Ryerson and Windsor put up a fight," says Rob Fleming, former UVSS chair who sat on last year's presidential search committee with graduate student society president Sandra Guarascio. "And some presidents didn't articulate any defence of the public education system at all... He seemed to acquiesce and agree quite easily with the Tory government."

"He's a charming guy, there's no doubt about it," says Fleming. "But he wasn't my first choice in the final analysis, coming from the side of universities in Canada increasingly looking at themselves as an enterprise."

With all the talk of cost-cutting skills in line with the Harris' goverment, what does Turpin's expertise with privatization mean for UVic?

Aside from keeping research funds in the flush and attracting top-knotch faculty, Turpin's first priorities as UVic new president include an aggressive donor campaign with a target of raising $80 million over three years.

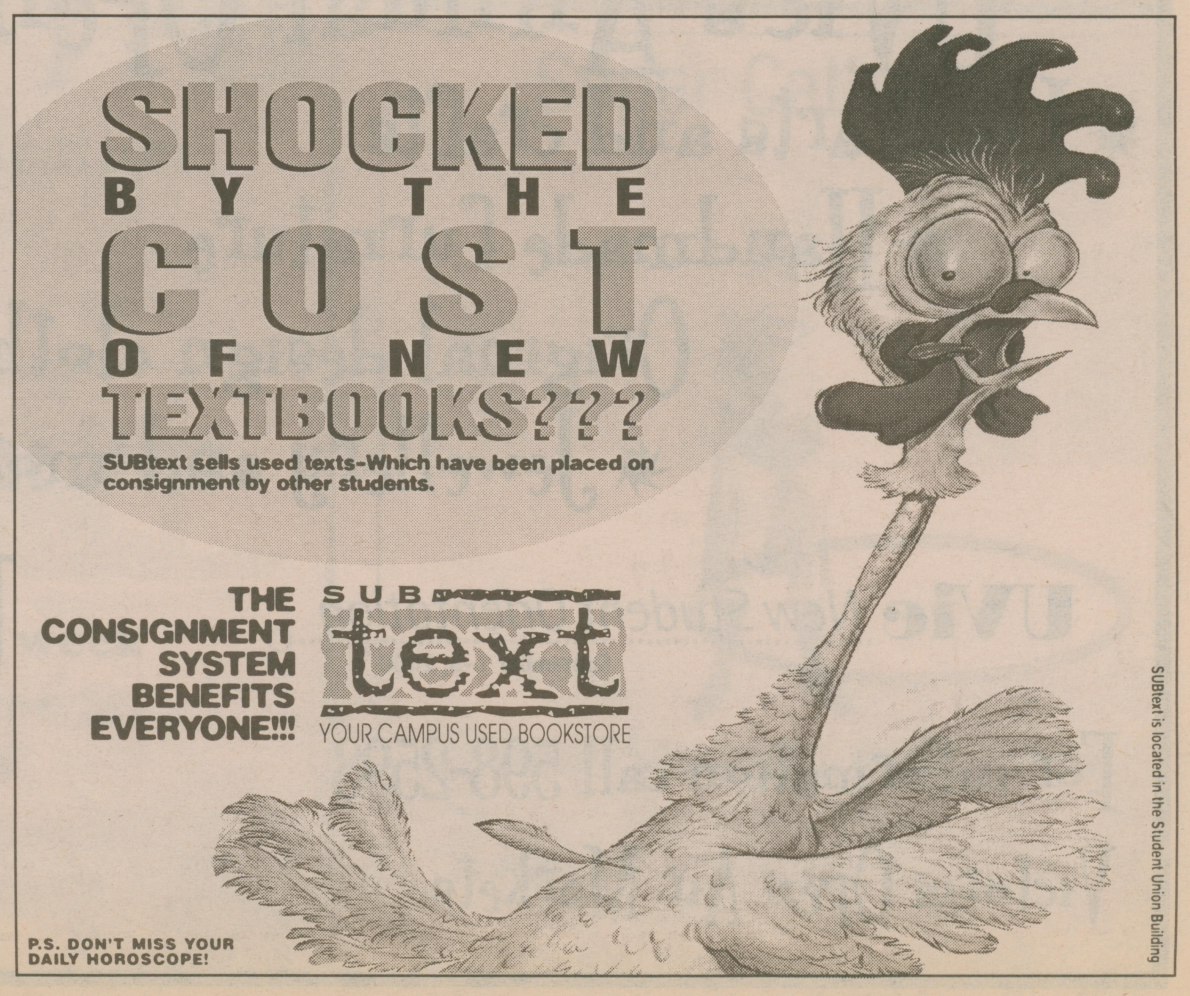
Will Turpin be skeptical of where the money comes from?

"Oh, by all means... We have to ask in every interaction that we have, are all of the values of the institution being upheld? You have to be comfortable with the nature of the gift, where it came from."

Despite what he says, current UVSS chairperson Summer McFayden isn't so quick to believe our new president.

"He says he worked very well with the Tory government... It'll be a test of time I guess but we don't want to wait and see until it's too late to do anything... We're skeptical."

Whatever he does, Turpin comes with a sweet price tag attached. He'll collect a $200,000 salary this year with $50,000 chucked in for housing and car allowances. That's about three times what a full professor makes, four times what a lecturer makes and 10 times what the average students makes employed on campus on a permanent, full-time basis in a service sector job.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SUBtext is located in the Student Union Building

OPINION: "Stop sniping at spy report on activists"

by Mark Redgwell

The topic on *the Martlet* storyboard was "Bogus CSIS report: What does the latest CSIS report on [anti]corporate activism say about how the nation's top brass are affected?"

It was, no doubt, generated from an Aug. 24 article in the *Globe and Mail* criticizing a recent CSIS report on anti-globalization.

The criticisms included using media reports instead of independent research and blurring the line between the legitimate protest and terrorism.

The idea, I suppose, was for me, *Martlet* writer, to parrot the *Globe's* criticisms and debunk the report as just another example of the establishment trying to squash progressive change.

Instead, I find myself puzzled at the brouhaha over a report that echoes what a lot of legitimate protesters have been saying all along: the majority of activists are a diverse conglomeration of peaceful protesters and militant extremists looking for any excuse to resort to violence.

Once again, the media's incessant need to create controversy results in disingenuous posturing – posturing that robs its readers of the opportunity to become informed citizens and leaves them choking on a gaggle of misinformation.

First, some background information: CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service) is Canada's homegrown national security organization, a sort of Canadian CIA. Unlike most spy agencies, CSIS is a civilian organization with no police powers. They can't arrest people, lock them up, or pepper spray them.

One of the things CSIS does is publish reports pertaining to national security issues like the report in question, *Anti-Globalization – A Spreading Phenomenon.*

I find myself puzzled at the brouhaha over a report that echoes what a lot of legitimate protesters have been saying all along: the majority of activists are a diverse conglomeration of peacful protesters and militant extremists looking for any excuse to resort to violence.

The report is part of the Perspectives series, a series that "uses open sources to examine any topic with the potential to cause threats to public or national security."

Therein lies one of the major critiques of this report, and the first notable irony: the media is accusing CSIS of not citing independent research to support its "controversial conclusions." This is the same media that has misinformed the public with shoddily researched news reporting on stories like the Marshall decision (native lobster fishing), the Sharpe decision (a case that struck down an overboard possession of child pornography law), and countless other stories.

Chomsky would chuckle over that one.

The most remarkable thing about this report is how it echoes what many anti-globalism activists have been saying all along.

The report starts out by describing the brief history of anti-globalism activism, and its increasing media profile since the WTO in Seattle.

It gives an accurate, succinct synopsis of the main issues the protesters are trying to bring to public attention. It also makes a clear distinction between most protesters and the minority morons who – like all terrorists, tyrants, and religious fanatics – believe they are justified in resorting to violence and violating the civil rights of their opponents.

So then, what are some of the report's controversial conclusions that have some of the more left-leaning dogmatists quoted in the *Globe* article so upset?

"While most demonstration participants and members of protest groups seek to conduct their activities in a peaceful, legitimate manner, militants and extremists – often anarchists, animal-rights supporters, or environmentalists – indulge in such violent actions as smashing windows, setting fires, or trashing shops and fast-food outlets."

"Although some members of the anarchist milieu believe that a peaceful, ethical approach should be followed, many defend the use of violence as the only means to achieve the classic anarchist society based on small independent communities that function without elected leaders."

"In some cases, the extremist elements, e.g., Black Bloc anarchists, have used the ranks of moderate protesters as shields to prevent law enforcement personnel from viewing violent activities and from getting into position to stop the damage."

"Sound intelligence arrangements will be crucial to the successful implementation of precautionary measures, especially to avoid errors of over- or under-commitment of resources and to preclude draconian responses or steps which would promote violent reactions from protesters. Extremist fringe elements will seek any excuse to indulge in aggressive tactics or resort to destructive activities."

"Given the virulent anti-globalization rhetoric directed against the Organization of American States (OAS), the threat of Summit-associated violence in Quebec City cannot be ruled out."

These conclusions are far from controversial. They are, if anything, common knowledge.

There are, of course, shortcomings in the report. The author says nothing about the property damage and violence caused by locals yokels out on a lark at these demonstrations.

Also, the author did, at one point, inaccurately equate "direct action" with extremists and violence. But considering its purpose and its audience, the report was a sober, well thought out portrayal of anti-globalism, and all sides would be better off if police and politicians read it and take it seriously.

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Victoria Open Air Markets

News in brief...

Campus censorship ruffles civil libertarians

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) sent the university's vice president of academics Dr. Penny Codding a "strongly worded letter" to protest an injunction against Lorenzo Bouchard.

Bouchard, 64, was asked to leave campus last year after picketing high-profile buildings on the UVic campus wearing a sign saying "Original treaties only for 100% blood aboriginals."

After a hearing in June, Codding made the decision final: Bouchard won't be allowed back on campus.

The association is demanding that university reverse its decision and revise its current harassment policy.

The hearing was one-sided from the start, says Bouchard, adding that the university refused to hear testimony from his witnesses.

"You're running a leftist kangaroo court up there," he says. "How much free speech is there at the university in terms of treaties, lesbianism, homosexuality?"

Bouchard says Canada's First Nations people "have been standing at the river banks like Sandanistas saying they all have treaty rights when they're not even full blooded aboriginals."

He calls the university's actions "a whole lot of bullshit."

Codding couldn't be reached for comment before press time.

"His views are a mixture of old redneck values and the rest is so far to the left... He's a weird character all together but he's not malicious," says UVic law student Eric Robinson.

"His opinions aren't that bad. They're inaccurate but no more so than an old textbook. If he's targeting First Nations students by approaching them directly that's another thing."

B.C. Civil Liberties Association President Craig Jones calls the university's decision one of the worst cases of censorship on campus.

He doesn't stop there though. The BCCLA condemns what they call a growing trend at university campuses in B.C. to squelch "minority opinions."

The group is still upset over last year's decision to deny club status to the student-run anti-abortion group Youth Protecting Youth.

After students voted in favour of keeping with the UVSS "official pro-life position," a group of four adults from Vancouver, including BCCLA member Gordon Watson, arrived on campus to picket the Student Union Building in order to protest the decision.

"The feminists from the women's studies office tried to have us removed," said Watson who filed an assault charge against UVic student Alec Herdy.

The charge was thrown out of court in what Watson calls support for "a government that has criminalized political opposition."

Meanwhile, Bouchard says he will continue to picket the entrance to UVic.

"Your little area where they want to create a bubble means not too much to me... The whole thing is pretty goddamn sick."

You said it.

UVSS approves $16,000 web site

The University of Victoria's Student Society (UVSS) voted this week to spend $16,000, or about a buck and change per student, on revamping their website.

The six designers who bid on the project include Victoria graphic and web designers Inkwell Designs. After a series of interviews, the six member student selection committee picked the Vancouver company Proximity Designs.

Both UVSS president Summer McFadyen and director of academics Kari Worton refused to name the companies who bid on the contract comparing the process to a confidential job interview.

"There are certain things we have to keep secret," says Worton, arguing that although students fund the society and pay for the website, students don't have a right to the names of the contenders.

After looking at proposals with a price tag ranging from $40,000 to $110,000, UVSS finance director Greg Awai says they got a bargain. "Our society has a large membership and I think it's justified because it provides an effective avenue to communicating with our members," says Awai.

Not everybody on campus agrees.

Former UVSS chair Morgan Stewart calls it "the worst use of student's money that I can possible think of."

"And they're not even buying a server... There's no reason students can't do it themselves for way cheaper or free."

Stewart "mastered" the UVSS website last year, but several students complained it was slow and difficult to use.

UVSS finance committee member Andrew McVie calls the price tag "a little high." He says the society could easily have commissioned a group of co-op students.

"I'd rather see the money going to students rather than a big company in Vancouver," says McVie.

Interfor and activists clash again

Seventeen people were arrested in the Elaho Valley last week, continuing a summer-long battle between activists, Interfor employees and the RCMP in the heart of the Stoltmann wilderness.

A rally was called at the legislature Sept. 6 to pressure the province to intervene in the five-year old conflict involving three different law suits.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) has been cataloging old growths in the Elaho since 1995. President Joe Foye sent a letter to RCMP calling for a full investigation into Interfor's part in two violent clashes between activists and Interfor employees last summer.

A civil suit has been filed against the forestry company and a lengthy list of individuals by four activists beaten by Interfor employees and contractors last September. About 100 men entered an area south of Lava Creek where eight activists were staying, including Interfor foreman Derek Sayles who wrote "this is a day for ethnic cleansing for the tree huggers" in a journal seized by the RCMP.

"Any kind of violence is not something we consider appropriate or acceptable," says Interfor's chief forester Rick Slaco.

Meanwhile, Interfor loggers were accused of assaulting two members of Forest Action Network in Bella Coola Sept. 4.

"From my perspective a couple of activists in Cousin's Inlet harassed our logging contractors," says Slaco. "There was a scuffle involved but from their perspective FAN caused the confrontation."

The legislature rally follows an intense blockade erected in August by Vancouver activists Friends of the Elaho.

Four people, including Victoria resident Dennis Zarelli, 23, lived for eight days in the top branches of two 400-year old Douglas firs around the Lava Creek loop – an area the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee has pressured the forestry company to protect.

The Lava Creek loop is home to B.C.'s oldest Douglas firs: the oldest tree in the area – renamed the Interfor giant – is 1065-years-old.

RCMP blocked food and water supply lines to the tree sitters on the second day of their protest. The sitters continued their blockade for six days while Interfor trucks crossed the bridge and loggers began to fell trees in the riparian zone.

photo by Miguel MacDonald

Free food at the President's BBQ, part of UVic's Orientation Week.

Maple Ridge sports bar a trap for boobs

Hey ho, UVic women! It's time to collectively jump into the chilly Georgia Straight and race northward for the chance to win a new set of knockers.

That's right.

In a decidedly progressive marketing ploy, Tommy's Bar and Grill, about 50 kilometres east of Vancouver, is offering a once-in-a-lifetime chance at winning a brand new set of silicon supplements.

In a riveting contest entitled Win Boobs, the lucky recipient of the windfall receives a $3,000 gift certificate for implants.

Manager Melinda Vince, 25, says she doesn't in fact feel like a tit for her role in organizing a contest that not only perpetuates the idea that women's breasts, hot commodities in North American culture, but cashes in.

"People don't have to enter," says Vince, adding that the contest is attracting so much media attention, she gets calls daily at home. "I had one lady call who said she thought it was degrading...But there's naked women dancing in the bar beside us all day. Nobody is forcing them to do it, and nobody is forced to watch."

"Women are beautiful, every shape and size."

Of course – that might explain why 2,000 people have entered the contest so far.

Vince says that while the bar caters to an under-25 market, the majority of women dropping by to enter are in their 40s and 50s.

"Tommy's is offering to you the chance of a lifetime," reads the bar's website. "You have a shot at winning BOOBS. That is right, you did read it correctly."

So far no bars in Victoria have tried to cash in on the free boob job phenomena. However, a Seattle radio station ran a contest offering free silicon peaks with an operation televised live on the Internet.

notes by Gillian Jerome

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Dawson inquest postponed, test results positive

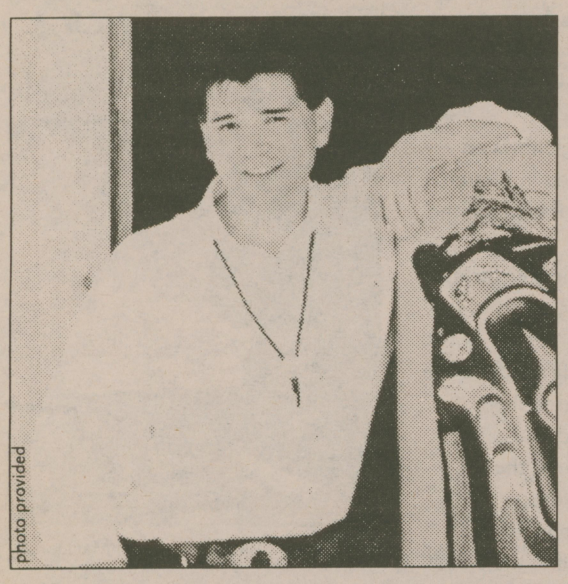
photo provided

by Brad Buie

Positive test results for a rare metabolic disorder may explain Anthany Dawson's erratic behaviour when he was apprehended by police and rushed to the hospital last August.

Dawson, 29, ran into traffic on Oak Bay Avenue, and removed his clothing. Witnesses say he was sweating and holding his head in his hands.

Police restrained Dawson, but with how much and with what kind of force is the subject of conflicting reports.

Meanwhile, his mother Nancy has filed a civil suit claiming negligence causing her son's death against the the Victoria police, the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Greater Victoria Hospital Foundation, the Ministry of Health, two doctors and two paramedics.

Nancy Dawson says Anthany would still be alive today had all parties involved not treated him like a "drunk Indian."

The much-anticipated test results came after a sample of Dawson's DNA was sent to a lab in Texas, marking the second autopsy to date.

Victoria geneticist Dr. Patrick MacLeod has been asked to write a medical report on the link between the test results and Anthany's behaviour the day he died.

MacLeod first took an interest in Dawson when he read a news report describing his behaviour Aug. 11 of last year.

"There was one line in the newspaper that said the man was sweating profusely and tearing off his clothes. I thought 'his furnace is on fire.'"

MacLeod calls the heart, brain and muscles the body's furnaces for burning fuel, regulated by protein enzymes which are coded by genes. What he saw in Anthany's behaviour was the potential for a mutation in genes that control proteins responsible for fuel burning, or metabolism.

He approached the coroner with his hypothesis after learning that one of his clients with the rare illness was Anthany's cousin.

Blood samples from Anthany's father and mother are still under analysis. McLeod's report should be finished by the middle of September.

Dawson died two days after being hospitalized without any medical explanation. Nancy Dawson believes the way he was treated by police, ambulance attendants and doctors caused his death.

No witnesses at the scene have actually given evidence at the inquest, although reports in both *Monday Magazine* and the *Times Colonist* tell conflicting stories.

Some witnesses say they saw an officer put Dawson in a headlock, then punch him; other witnesses deny evidence of unreasonable treatment by police.

There does not appear to be confusion, however, about police directing a large man to sit on Dawson when restraining him, or that Dawson was placed face down on a gurney with his hands and feet tied behind him.

Both these actions may have made breathing difficult for him. When ambulance staff got him to the hospital, he was not breathing at all and he had no pulse.

"Alcohol and drug overdose" was written on both the ambulance report and Dawson's admittance papers to the Royal Jubilee. The ambulance report also included a note saying "cocaine history given to Victoria police."

However blood and urine tests came back negative: no alcohol or drugs were present in his system, only a trace of marijuana.

Although Dawson was found in obvious distress, the doctor on duty didn't order a CAT scan until after the toxicology reports came back negative.

Two days after Anthany was admitted to hospital Nancy Dawson switched off his life support.

"If he had been non-Native would he have been attended to with greater consideration of his medical crisis?"

Meanwhile, a coroner's inquest into the death of the First Nations artist has been postponed until the middle of November.

NDP shows $52 million surplus

by Ben Isitt

For the first time in a decade, B.C. has balanced its books.

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh made the announcement Aug. 24 that a forecasted deficit of over $1.5 billion had actually blossomed into a modest but irrefutable $52 million surplus.

"When I took the oath of office as premier, I committed to getting B.C.'s financial house in order and keeping it that way," Dosanjh said in a press release.

In the wake of the NDP's 'fudge-it-budget' of 1996, where the party won an election on a balanced budget that never materialized, British Columbians are sure to be skeptical of the surplus.

But B.C.'s Auditor General, Wayne Strelioff, an independent employee of the Legislative Assembly, said that "these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Government of British Columbia as at March 21, 2000."

So what's happened?

Last year's books saw a deficit of just over $1 billion. Finance Minister Joy McPhail said at the time that the government intended to spend its way out of a recession. The year before the NDP was $430 million in the hole. They were $753 million short the year before that. And B.C.'s public debt now stands at a staggering $34.2 billion, or a third of the province's gross domestic product. It's doubled over the NDP's mandate.

Certainly not a rosy situation, but it's hard not to smile. How did those spendthrift socialists down at the Inner Harbour do it, anyway?

Economic growth was the major impetus. Revenue was up $1.2 billion from last year, with an $800 million windfall from natural resources, $450 million in extra cash from the Feds, and $224 million in extra taxes.

Reduced revenue from Crown corporations and investments took a chunk out of the surplus, but left it intact.

The opposition Liberals aren't buying it, however.

"The NDP have no reason to boast about a $52 million surplus," said BC Liberal finance critic Gary Farrell-Collins. "Instead of much needed tax relief, the benefits were tossed away thanks to the fast ferries fiasco and NDP mismanagement."

Dosanjh has hardly been tight with his purse strings.

An extra $554 million was pumped into public healthcare, an $85 million boost went to B.C.'s colleges and universities, and the NDP announced the first stages of a new universal childcare program.

At last February's leadership convention, some NDPers feared Dosanjh's victory represented a 'shift to the right,' a retreat from the values they held dear. They thought Dosanjh's commitment to fiscal responsibility was a step in the wrong direction.

Well now Dosanjh says he's in a position to reinvest in the programs and vision he never abandoned.

"Last year's balanced books and modest surplus, coupled with my government's Budget Transparency and Accountability Act and the Balanced Budget Act, are the first steps towards ensuring we are able to achieve a progressive social agenda in the future while being fiscally responsible," Dosanjh said.

What does all this mean to students?

Beyond the much-needed boost in core funding, Dosanjh has discussed the possibility of reducing tuition fees. His party has a policy of zero tuition, but has never come close to implementing it.

But this is an election year, with the NDP's mandate ending as school gets out next spring. Dosanjh has said education is his number one priority.

What do the Liberal's think?

"If the Premier thinks the economy is doing so well, he should call an election and let the people cast judgement on the NDP's financial management," Farrell-Collins said. "It's the same old thing - the NDP doesn' t have a revenue problem, they have a spending problem."

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Liam Hall spends back-to-school in prison

Is a UVic student locked in a Yugoslav jail a terrorist or a victim of retribution for an ugly war?

by Ben Isitt

Liam Hall has a bit more on his mind these days than the routine headaches of waitlists, bookstore lineups, and the crunch of a new school term.

The 19-year-old social sciences student, slated to begin his second year at UVic this September will spend back-to-school in a Yugoslav jail instead.

Over a year after Canadian bombs rained down on Belgrade, the Alberta-born Hall has been placed at the centre of a highly-charged international incident: he's the subject of a military investigation into charges of attempted terrorism and illegal entry.

Along with two Britons and his 45-year-old uncle Shaun Going, Liam was arrested by Yugoslav soldiers Aug. 1 in northern Montenegro, a province of Yugoslavia with strong separatist leanings.

None of the four had the required visitor's visa. And the vehicle they were traveling in contained detonator fuses and explosives. Yugoslavia claims the men were training Montenegran police in terrorist tactics.

Reports surfaced prior to their arrest saying that NATO had hired mercenaries to kidnap war-crimes suspects from Yugoslav territory. A few days earlier, four Dutchmen were arrested and accused of terrorism.

The Canadians' arrest took place near the border with neighbouring Kosovo, where Hall reportedly had a summer job doing reconstruction work with his uncle's company, Calgary-based Meridian Resources.

Meridian, employing 40 to 50 people in Kosovo, has a contract with NATO to rebuild buildings and infrastructre damaged by the 1999 air war. Going had been in Kosovo since June 1999, the month NATO called off the bombing and established Kosovo as a UN protectorate. He has spent much of the past decade doing similar work throughout the Balkans. He was arrested in Albania in the early 1990s and subsequently released.

The two Brits arrested with Hall and Going were police officers training the new NATO-mandated Kosovo Protection Force.

The four were allegedly returning from a short vacation in the Montenegran resort town of Sveti Stefan.

On Aug. 7, they were transferred from an army barracks in the north of the country to appear before a military judge in the capital, Podgorica.

They were then charged with terrorism and sent to Belgrade.

According to their lawyer, the charges include violating the sovereignty of Yugoslavia, importing arms and munitions, attempted terrorism, and coercion of military personnel.

photo provided

Along with his studies at UVic last year, Hall played rugby on the Velox Under-21 team. Looking back, a heated scrum must seem like a bed of roses compared with the predicament he now finds himself in.

On Aug. 9 the four spent nine hours before another military judge in a closed-door hearing in Belgrade where Canadian officials were denied access. They plead not guilty to the allegations.

"I think Mr. Hall, being young, was quite intimidated by the court proceedings, as you can imagine," Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said at the time.

The next day, representatives from the Canadian and British embassies were allowed to meet with the accused, and Hall was given some two-minute phone cards in order to call home.

In an interview with the CBC later that day, Liam's father Ron said from the family home in High River, Alta., that his son sounded "so upbeat and optimistic."

"I can't believe how well he is," Ron Hall said. "He says he is just fine except that his jeans are dirty."

In the wake of the arrest, Hall described his son as "a wonderful kid. He's caught in a terrible thing over there."

Along with his studies at UVic last year, Liam played rugby on the Velox Under-21 team. Looking back, a heated scrum must seem like a bed of roses compared with the predicament he now finds himself in.

He was allegedly beaten in the first days following his arrest, though his lawyer said he does not describe his treatment as anything like torture.

"The time of arrest was a little dicey," Liam told his father over the phone.

He has been kept in "what amounts to solitary confinement" for the past month.

A military judge is currently conducting an investigation into the terrorism charges. He has traveled to Montenegro to look into the movements of the accused prior to their arrest, interviewed staff at the hotel where they allegedly stayed in Sveti Stefan, and is currently investigating Going's company, import and other licenses, and details on the storage and use of explosives.

Hall and Going are being defended by Dr. Ivan Jankovic, a Belgrade lawyer hired by the family. Jankovic won the release of two Australian aid workers charged with espionage during the NATO bombing campaign.

While Liam intended to fly home to Canada via London on Aug.10, and while embassy officials said after his arrest that he intended to make it home for the start of school, his incarceration was extended another 30 days at a hearing in Belgrade at the end of August.

The investigation could reportedly last as long as six months before leading into a possible trial.

And with sanctions already in place against Yugoslavia, Minister Axworthy concedes there is little Canada can do to leverage their release.

"Our position is that they should be released," Axworthy said. "There's no reason to hold them." Referring to Yugoslav president Slobadan Milosevic, he added that, "It's another example of the kind of tactics of a thug to get his way."

The arrest of Hall and his uncle is unlikely to help already-strained relations between Canada and the Balkan nation. One out of every 10 bombs dropped in NATO's 78-day air war came from a Canadian pilot, and the devastation the country endured was severe. Allegations of terrorism and espionage only exacerbate the problem.

And caught in the middle of it all is one of our fellow students: 19-year-old Liam Hall.

"Liam is a member of the Students' Society and we are here to advocate for our members... even if they are overseas and on vacation," said Summer McFadyen, chairperson of the UVic Students' Society. "The UVSS has initiated a letter-writing campaign to demand Liam's rights to a fair trial, free from political interference."

"We are concerned that Liam is being used as a political pawn in the game of international relations," McFadyen said.

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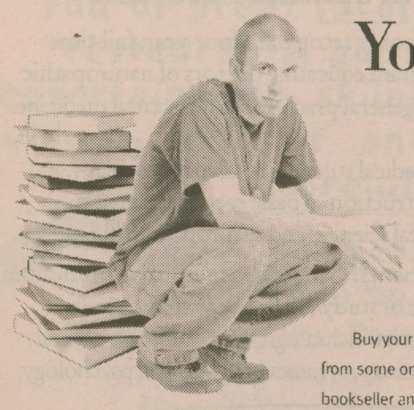
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Opinion

Minimum wage: a critical eye on labour

by Michael Zelmer

The NDP government has announced that the minimum wage in BC will increase from $7.15 per hour to $7.60 with a guaranteed hike to $8.00 if they are still in power after the upcoming election.

Instead of criticizing the government for this despicable ploy which is vaguely reminiscent of a dealer from a bad after-school special ("The first one's free kid, if you need anymore you know where to find me."), Gordon Campbell and Co. along with various business groups have chosen to attack the minimum wage itself.

There are three main arguments leveled against any increase: it kills jobs, it will mostly just put money in the pockets of teenagers who don't really need it, and tax credits are really a better way to help the poor anyway.

The 'job killer' argument should be familiar to anyone who has taken a first year microeconomics course. It goes something like this, if the minimum wage is set too high two things will happen.

First, people will come out of the woodwork for a chance at these high-paying and glamourous occupations.

Second, businesses can't afford to pay their employees liveable wages and so they're forced to shut down. Fewer jobs and more people looking for them, they say, is bad for business and bad for the poor. The problems with this seem obvious. If a high minimum means fewer jobs, then the implication is that lower wages might mean more – hey hold on, maybe they're onto something: if we set it at about a buck a day we might be able to solve this whole unemployment thing.

Of course you would have to pay for all of those sewing machines, shackles, union-busting foot soldiers – never mind.

If we go beyond the rhetoric, the fact is that increasing the minimum wage will likely have very little effect on the total number of low-income jobs.

A recent study released by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives argues that the last few increases in B.C. had virtually no effect on jobs, sometimes there were more, sometimes fewer. In any case the total income of the poor increased every time.

The argument that minimum wage earners are generally teenagers living in their parents' comfortable homes also appears unfounded. According to Statistics Canada, 61 per cent of people making minimum wage are adults.

The Fraser Institute, a pro-market think-tank counter argues by insisting that the majority of people earning minimum wage are in fact teenagers; of course their definition of a teenager appears to be anyone under the age of 25.

One of their bigger concerns appears to be that as the minimum wage increases, droves of teenagers will drop out of school in search of fame and fortune at the local Dairy Queen. (Honestly it's on their website, check out http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/publications/csr/1999/february/folks.html).

I'm not sure what they're on, but you can bet the teenager that sold it to them makes more than eight bucks an hour.

The argument in favour of tax credits over minimum wage is the most interesting of the three criticisms, mostly because it's a red herring. A tax-credit is a complement to a higher minimum wage not an alternative to it, and really we need both.

For example, even if the minimum wage makes it all the way up to $8.00, someone working 40 hours per week will still only gross $16,640 which is exactly where StatsCan has set the poverty line for a single person living in a large urban centre.

But just when you think you can say, "Hey, at least now they're not impoverished," they lose about 20 per cent in income tax unless they're going to school or have some other form of tax credit.

The obvious rebuttal to the argument for tax credits instead of a higher minimum wage, then, is that we should have both; it's ridiculous to think that it must be one or the other.

Considering that the evidence suggests that raising the minimum wage likely won't eliminate jobs and will help more than just teenagers from well-off families, there seems little compelling reason not to raise the minimum wage. Since the current minimum wage is less than it was in 1976 in terms of purchasing power, we are really only talking about adjusting for inflation not a province-wide raise.

Surely we can agree that someone working full time in this province should not make less than or be taxed below the poverty line.

Expert on third-world female poverty comes to UVic

by Miguel MacDonald

Dr. Irene Tinker, recognized and widely honoured as one of the foremost authorities on women in world development, knows poverty.

Her experience working in developing countries in Asia and Africa, working for non-profit organizations and with the United Nations make her take on the topic, realized after more than three decades of work, "a point of view that we don't have a chance to hear at UVic," said Dr. Stephen Tyler, Senior Scientist for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The centre is responsible for bringing Dr. Tinker to speak at UVic in the Cornett Building, Room B135, Sept. 15.

Dr. Tinker, now retired from the University of California in Berkley, first worked on gender issues in the 1970s. She was the founding Director of the Office of International Science at the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences from 1973 to 1977. She edited *Women and World Development of Science*, a book credited as the central set of readings in the field she has helped to develop and shape. Tinker is also the founder of the Equity Policy Center in Washington D.C

Her work has revealed that foreign aid provided to many developing countries sometimes contradicts local customs. In one instance development workers granted the title of land in one community to the men of the village as part of an agricultural enrichment program. What the program failed to acknowledge was that in that particular culture the ownership of land traditionally remained with the women of the community.

The development workers had unwittingly stripped these women of their land, said Tyler.

In another instance Dr. Tinker showed where aid workers, unfamiliar with the diet of a village, began installing the wrong stoves into homes in the developing world.

"You couldn't cook beans on this stove," Tyler said.

According to Dr. Tinker, the stoves they were installing produced a high heat. But what the aid program failed to realize was that to cook beans, one of the staples in the community's diet, required a low and constant heat, Tyler explained.

Dr. Tinker is the author of *Street foods: Urban food and employment in developing countries.* One of the signs that a country is developing is the disappearance of street foods, food that is prepared and served on the street, as the economy shifts to restaurants.

> [Street foods] supply the poor with a cheap and balanced diet and also give street vendors, many of whom are women, the chance to earn money.

What Dr. Tinker revealed was that street foods serve another purpose. They supply the poor with a cheap and balanced diet and also give street vendors, many of whom are women, the chance to earn money.

"There is a growing gap between the wealthy and the poor," Tyler said. He explained that this is as true for developed countries as it is for developing nations. He added that Dr. Tinker will show this by, "turning the usual model on its head."

"The talk will be of interest to people who are concerned with social policy in North America and the world," Tyler said.

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Notes on the poetry rodeo

Born 6,000 Miles Too Far to the Right

by Tom Howell

Scene: Upstairs from the livestock. The Cowboy Poetry Evening at the Cariboo Fall Fair, Williams Lake, B.C.

Hey buckaroos, welcome to this summertime Cariboo cowboy festival! All kinds of kinds have come to wild Williams Lake. Clean ones and dirty ones, old ones and young ones, women-and-horses-and-cattle riding in the dirt, spurring wild to win a prize.

Oh and when it's dark, those folk who like to share smiles and warm each other's hearts stay around for an evening of cowboy songs. To join in, ride on down to the rodeo grounds below the highway, pick your way through the pick-ups parked outside, stick your six bucks entry fee into the lady's hand, stroll past the staggering drunks at the outdoor beer bar, amble past the ambulances (for those unlucky rodeo riders), high-tail it up the hill to the curling rink lounge, with its unrivalled view of the livestock in the indoor arena below.

Two hundred humans are up here tonight. Not all of them ranchers: we've got teachers and preachers, loggers and veterinarians, and even some people who admit to working for the government. They're all gathered together in front of one microphone.

And who am I trying to kid?

These people are for real! That grizzled redneck in the John Wayne costume lassos cows for a living. What put it in my head to think that participation in this event was a good idea? The organizer, who knows my sister, heard that I write British cowboy poetry, and told me the Cariboo crowd would just eat me up.

My mother coined the name for this new nationality, which she shares as an ex-Canadian now living in England. It's called: "In an airplane 3,000 feet above Iceland with a rye-and-ginger-ale in your hand." I don't know what the cowboy poets would say.

Now I wonder what she meant. True, I'm getting paid fifty dollars for my performance, but will I survive to spend it?

Two old cowhands lean against the bar at the back of this deep, dingy hall. They mutter, and eye me. One wears a yellow cotton shirt, the other a stripy blue one.

Their battered chaps have aged so much that the leather's lost its brown, turned grey like an old man's skin. Hairy handle-bars hide the upper lips of both men, and their eyes... well, the dim bar light doesn't reveal much, and hats bury their expressions in shadow, but I catch a glint of something sharp while I'm trying not to let them see me looking. Maybe it's a reflection off their beer bottles, or their spurs.

Around the lounge, talk is muted. In front of the stage, the rows of wooden chairs fill as the cowfolk leave the bar to take their seats. I sweat in my tight suede vest, corduroy jacket and felt hat.

I am not used to wearing baggy cords neatly with a shiny belt buckle. It makes my walk odd. That and the boots. I struggle not to totter like an amateur drag queen in high heels. To my relief, Janice the event manager finds me and she has a friendly smile.

"You're Tom?" Her hat is also felt, and blue, supported by stringy black hair.

"Yes, hello."

"The plan is: two shifts, with an interval. Less than 15 minutes each. Does that suit you?" Her smile does not suggest choice.

"Yes, fine. Do you know when I'm on?"

"Well," she says, and flips over a sheet on her clipboard. "How would you like to open the evening?"

"Er..." How would I like to open the door and leave? "Could I maybe go second?"

Smile. "Talk to Burt. He's the one tuning his guitar. Great to see you here." And she's gone. She has directed me to a bearded man with monster hands twisting the pegs of his plug-in twelve-string.

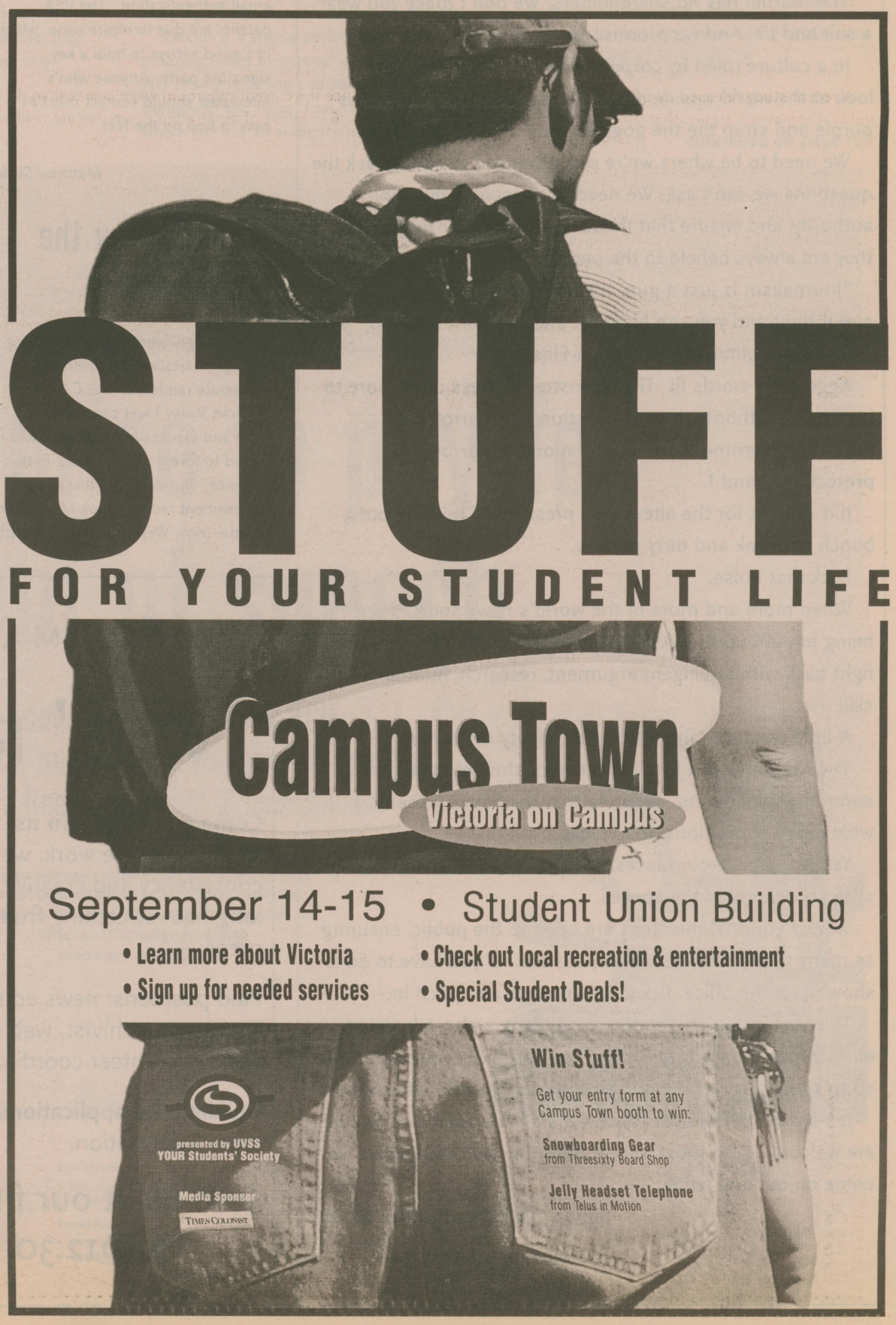
The reality of this situation begins to dawn: 6,000 miles from home, in a room full of cowboys, about to strike a deal with hairy monster named Burt.

Burt takes one look at me and willingly shifts me from the opening slot.

"You can go on after the yodellers."

It turns out that these aren't just any yodellers. One is the pride of Canada, having recently won a first prize at the North American yodelling championships in Nevada. First Canadian yodeller to win there, apparently. She walks onstage with her meek, lanky husband.

I prepare to laugh but three lines into the first song she starts yodelling like Tarzan on high-speed dubbing. Her Cariboo audience loves it, although they seem timid about clapping along. Perhaps her achievements in the yodelling world make them nervous. She certainly has that effect on me at first, although by the third song I feel ready to throw a



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EDITORIAL:

Welcome to the Martlet: It's a fine time for free press

Media guru Noam Chomsky once said that late 20th century newspapers "are specifically designed and intended to induce conformity to established doctrine and engage in the regurgitation of welcome pieties."

Scan the stands: Globe and Mail, The Times Colonist, The National Post, The Vancouver Sun.

Check. Check. Check. Check.

It's also been said that the free press is the corner stone of a functioning democracy. And since we sure as shit don't having a functioning democracy, we need the all free press we can get.

Look around the stands and flip to the names of Canada's newsprint publishers.

Southam Inc., Thompson, Island Publishers, CanWest.

Remember the Georgia Straight in the 60s?

Remember Rolling Stone when Hunter S. Thompson was a cub reporter and Annie Liebowitz took press shots?

Course you don't. But fuck, take a gander back in time and you'll see those were the good days.

Adbusters. Utne. Geist. This.

Those days ain't gone. The 90s offers an alternative press with its lungs bursting open. Hop on and get high.

Flip back to page two of this here little ditty.

The Martlet has no shareholders. We don't make you wear a suit and tie. And we promise you won't grow desk butt.

In a culture ruled by corporate noise, we need to take a look at the world upside down. We need to paint ourselves purple and strap the the goggles on.

We need to be where we're not supposed to be and ask the questions we can't ask. We need to constantly question authority, and ensure that those in power never forget that they are always beheld to the people.

"Journalism is just a gun. It's only got one bullet in it, but aim it right and you can blow the kneecap off the world," says Transmetropolitan editor Warren Ellis.

Aggressive words fit. The mainstream press does more to legitimate authority than to question it. It parrots and protects government and corporations. It parrots and protects you and I.

If it weren't for the alternative press, we'd nothing but a bunch of drunk and dirty parrots.

Fuck that noise.

When more and more of the world's news sources are being bought up by fewer and fewer monopolies, we have to fight back with intelligent argument, research, humour and skill.

A little creativity and a sense of beauty never hurt.

The Martlet is run by a collective of students and community members, ensuring that the paper presents a wide range of opinions and voices.

Ya, ya, we have our biases. You don't like it? Come in and stick your finger in the spokes.

Weekly editorial meetings are open to the public, ensuring as many thumbs in the pie as possible. All you have to do is show up at the office, flex a little muscle and pitch in.

The Martlet is not just a newspaper, it is also a learning environment. It's a place where you can paint yourself purple, strap some goggles on, and sit tight for the ride. Weeeeeee!

It's a place for radical action. It is a place where all people are welcome. And most importantly, it's your newspaper. So come on out and write.

- Simon Glezos and Gillian Jerome

Letters:

Email critic wants "web of trust"

Rana Phagurra's August 24 letter to the Martlet raises some important points. It's true, regular email has no security features, and as we rely increasingly on email, we need *security. However, I disagree with the suggestion that a Public Key* Infrastructure (PKI) would be a good thing for UVic.

PKI implies a central authority. Whom would you trust to control the authenticity of all our communications? The government? The administration? Goddess forbid, the UVSS? I don't approve of central authorities in general, especially not for something as important as communications privacy.

I would prefer to advocate a "web of trust": individuals authenticate each others' keys, with no central authority. Web of trust is supported by popular email security software including the free GNU Privacy Guard, which I helped write. It places a burden on individual users to take responsibility for their own security, but isn't that preferable anyway?

I'd be happy to help other students set up webs of trust for email authentication. The RSA patents are due to expire soon, which is a good excuse to hold a key signature party. Anyone who's interested should contact me; I'm easy to find on the Net.

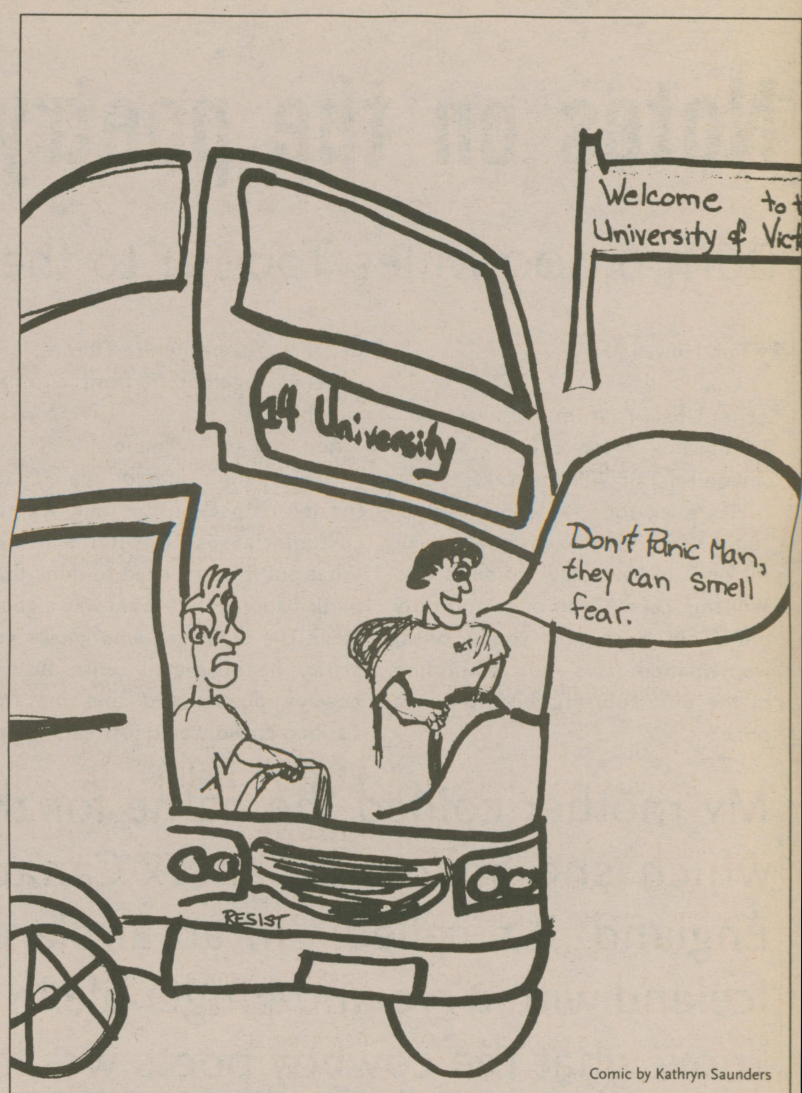
Matthew Skala

Forest policy the bottom-line

After a magnificent day spent hiking through majestic old growth temperate rainforest in B.C.'s Walbran Valley I feel compelled to write and express my opinions with regard to forest management in this province. I understand that the B.C. Government recently took MacMillan Bloedel (now Weyerhaeuser) to court to encourage them to cut along a watershed they had refused to cut for environmental reasons. Apparantly the government wanted to increase the revenue raised from stumpage fees. In light of this very strange appeal (why not just raise stumpage fees which are low to begin with), I must express my concern that the entire Walbran watershed be protected, and that the boundaries of Pacific Rim National Park be extended. There is nothing in the world quite like an old growth forest, and this ecosystem is worthy of something other than absolute devastation.

The children of the world, and their children, deserve the right to witness the awesome strength and beauty of trees that have stood since before Shakespeare's time. I believe that humans are intelligent and creative enough to harvest timber in a more sustainable and ethical way than the utter destruction offered by clearcuts.

With compassion,
Janine Bandcroft



Comic by Kathryn Saunders

A defense for Stockwell

In response to Ben Isitt's 'news' article "A bad day for Stockwell".

First of all, when writing 'facts' about violent action taken by members of a political party against protesters, at least try to find a valid source. Phrases like "was overheard asking," and a "student claims" are clearly just attempts to put editorial comment and allegations into 'news' format.

Furthermore, is it really important what Stockwell Day's former mechanic thinks about anything? What does your mechanic, grocery clerk or neighbour hold as their political or social views? If a neo-nazi says that I'm a nice person will you assume that I'm a neo-nazi?

The only thing that was clearly factual about the article was that the valiant freedom fighters of liberty involved in the protest "crashed a picnic." The protesters then refused

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Join us at our first meeting on Thursday, September 7 @12:30. Meet at the office (SUB B011).

[2000/2001]
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UVic's Student Paper

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Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

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CORRECTION:

The Martlet apologizes to Janine Bandcroft for a mistake in a Aug. 24 photo cutline calling her a member of local activist group Gene Action. Although Bandcroft advocates labelling and testing, she's a free radical, so to speak.

Apologies as well to the illustrious Guy Dauncey for a misquote in the feature article entitled "Guy Dauncey: Victoria's #1 ecoGeek." The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) was in fact created by California NGO Redefining Progress in 1979 not 1997. An ecological revamp of the GDP, measuring ecological assets as capital not income, the GPI has been steadily falling since 1979.

letters, continued

to speak directly to Day or to let him speak in a democratic arena.

Terry Brown, Head of Security and Parking for the event, also noted that Cedar Hill Golf Course was hosting more than one event, and that much of the altercation that occurred was between members of the Pipe Fitters Union and protesters, including the infamous "insults" and "more than one middle finger".

Matthew Hooton

Letter from the weeds

The Honorable Stockwell Day,

By-election Campaign Office
1372 Fairview Rd.
Penticton, BC
V2A 8K8

Dear Mr. Day :

As fellow contender in the upcoming by-elections you are cordially invited to meet us and find out more about our policies.

The Marijuana Party seeks to abolish prohibition by, amongst other things, informing other candidates about the advantages of our proposals and developing working relationships with them.

Having already written to the Right Honorable Charles Joseph Clark, PC, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, about his past views on the issue, we were quite disappointed by his refusal to even address our question.

For your convenience, we have included copies of these letters.

We now turn our attention to you in the hopes of sharing our knowledge about marijuana reform so we can discuss the finer points of this issue.

We humbly request that you grant us, at your convenience, the opportunity to show you a brief presentation by Brian Taylor, ex Mayor of Grand Forks and Chairmen of the Cannabis Research Institute, on the social and economic advantages of a legitimate cannabis industry in Canada.

Again we would like to remind you that we are willing to accommodate your otherwise busy schedule.

We are also of the opinion that this issue will be a vital one in the upcoming elections and that our society will benefit from an open, informed and cooperative debate on the subject.

Should you have any questions, or should you like to set a meeting time, please feel free to contact us at one of the numbers below.

Most sincerely,
Marc-Boris St-Maurice
Interim Leader, The Marijuana Party

Wild? Or not so Wild?

Your questions"what's wild" "what's artificial" maybe more profound than they first appear. But are there not answers already out there? Does not D.H. Thoreau's "in wildnes is the preservation of the world" challenge us to decide whether we are, or are not, part of that preservation?

Are we not as wild ('natural') as any other species with the same obligatioms to do what is necessary to persist or, not do, and depart?

It might help to recognize part of our 'wild' competitive strategy has been to create "tamelife" (domesticated wildlife), protected, cultivated and harvested for foods and materials to support our populations. .

Tamelife, from brewers yeast and turkey tocabbage and carrots have been selected and used to the competitive advantage of our species since hunter gatherers became pastoralists, now urban pastoralists. But domesticated tamelife are protected and dispensed by our own hand and do not carry the diversity of wild genes (DNA) that non-human (evolutionary) systems select.

By creating tamelife we have out-competed other wild species, developing civilized cultures culminating in the 'metro-wild' species we are today. But like all other wildlife we do not have any ordained right to survive, only the right to be smart enough to survive. Herewith is the dilemma of our time!

We have the power to decide whether cutting old growth forest, continuing capture fisheries, releasing fossil carbon and mindlessly destroying irreplaceable wild genetic diversity is a smart and survival-rich adaptive strategy or is not, and demonstrably maladaptive.

How our species balances the competitive advantage of our use of tamelife against the risk of disrupting the biodiverse wild fabric, into which our whole competitive narrative is inextricably woven, will be the measure of our ability, our smarts, to hang out on this implacably miraculous planet for as long as we otherwise might.

Surely "what we are trying to be" is as longtime a cohabitant of gaia earth as is astrophysically possible.

However Thoreau's words suggest that unless we possess, and express, the intelligence he himself evidences we have in our own particular DNA, we will fall short of the "wildness" he points up as fitter for "preservation of the world" than our own.

Alan Austin

on the spot

What are your back-to-school rituals?

By Miguel MacDonald

Laura Dedecker

I always try to find new recipies for lunches.

Annie Truong

I clean my room completely.

Kyo Yamamoto

I finish all my video games.

Welcome, mesdames and messieurs, to the crazy world of Student Loans.

Imagine a world where millionaires, home-owners, rich kids, lawyers and dentists are denied American Express cards.

Meanwhile, single, unemployed mothers-of-eight are given limitless American Express Gold cards.

One might posit that this is lunacy. While it is true the mom has far more need for the little plastic rectangle, and that, well, why not let them use debit – the rich could always pay now, instead of later. Financially, though, it seems fishy. Non-traditional.

by Julius Davies

Student Services Branch, P.O. Box 9173, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9H7, has a little joke it likes to play on students. Question #46 on the student loan application asks, "What year of post-secondary study are you going into?"

Well, these days I count back to 1995 using fingers on both hands. Five years ago I graduated from Kitsilano Secondary, and so, using university-level skills of deduction, I figure I must be entering my sixth year of post-secondary education.

I stretch my feet, nostalgically, ahh, six years of creative writing – it's been good to me. I duly enter a "six" in the space provided.

Eight weeks later a letter shows up on my doorstep. It reads, "You can't be entering the sixth year of a four-year program. What year of study are you going into?"

I phone them up (1-800-561-1818) and we laugh and laugh. Good joke, guys.

And I find out that it is not a joke.

The earth may circle the sun six times, but in administration-land, in room 101, we march to a different drum. Like Captain Picard in that episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation, like Winston in Orwell's *1984*, I find myself compelled to agree with these thought police. I steal a sheet of paper from the Martlet's fax machine and write, "I, Julius Davies, am in year 4 (four) of a 4 (four) year program."

I sign it. I date it. I fax it.

This is actually my first time ever applying for a student loan. I confess, I'm scared. Since I've already finished four years (or as they put it, 48 months) of accredited post-secondary studies, I don't qualify for any form of grant. This loan is mine, baby, all mine. Nearly $9,000.

I figure, though, I'm better off than most. I fully understand the ramifications of this $9,000 obligation – what the whole point of it is, what the risks are.

This will get me a job.

As long as I get into co-op and keep my grades up, this will get me a job.

I came from a middle-class high school in Vancouver. After we graduated, we either went to university, or we traveled. If we traveled, it was only to stave off a year or two before we ended up at some university.

I did the former: UVic, because that was the only school my dad sent my application to.

And even though I had not a clue about anything, I'm glad I did it – "education for education's sake." I now have a B.F.A. in Creative Writing, with a GPA just barely toeing over the 4.00 mark on our 9 point scale. It won't get me a job.

I would be in serious trouble right now if I had a student loan.

I would have qualified fully for one, were my father not a lawyer.

I have a problem with that.

It is not news that student loan default rates are high. They have been high ever since the recession which swept though North America in the mid to late 1980s. The provincial and federal governments have been combating this trend from its beginning – they introduced the co-op program; they launched schools more suited to the job market, such as the Technical University of B.C.; they even made changes to the high school curriculum – courses such as "Consumer Education 10" became graduation requirements. The problem is primarily that graduates can't find employment, and these programs ameliorate this somewhat.

Meanwhile, though, changes were made to the actual mechanics of the Student Loan program, with such things as loan remission and Canadian Millenium Bursaries attempting to lower the default rate.

They tried something else, too.

They tried "risk-sharing."

Prior to 1995, student loans were financed by the federal and provincial governments. In 1994 this meant that the government had to come up with the approximately $1.5 billion Canadian student-loan applicants were eligible for. This also would have meant the government stood to lose $1.5 billion if students couldn't pay it back.

In 1995, in the Provincial Legislature here in Victoria, then Advanced Education minister, The Hon. Dan Miller, postulated that the banks might be more effective at compelling students to avoid defaulting than the government.

"When the bank actually shares an element of the risk, that presumably creates a situation where the bank has a vested interest in pursuing the so-called defaulter. They may have an interest in saying to the potential defaulter, 'Look, if that repayment schedule is a little tough for you, let's sit down and work out something that makes sense.'"

"Risk-sharing," at least in the student loan arena means the government decides who gets the money but that the bank then provides the money. Subsequently, the bank then tries to get the money back.

Naturally, the governments had to offer the bank something in return. They offered a few things, but the most important were these:

1. Five per cent risk premium. When a student loan goes active, six months after the last day of a student's studies (presumably six months after they've obtained their certificate), the government pays the bank 5 per cent of the loan's value, as a hedge against non-repayment.

2. Budding careerists – customers with tonnes o equity, but no assets. By definition, these people are the most likely to need personal loans, mortgages. I addition, the Student Loan Program forced people who previously banked with Canada Trust or Bank o Montreal, among hundreds of smaller banks, credit unions, trusts, to at least try out one of CIBC, Royal or ScotiaBank. Decade-long ad campaigns are less effective.

And the theory is quite nice. Due to "risk-sharing," the Banks have a real interest in lowering the default rate as best they can: a $10 billion vested interest in five years of loans made to students. They have strategies they can employ to help in this effort increased communication with students, less bureaucracy between lender and student. In short, that bit Dan Miller was talking about: "Look, if that repayment schedule is a little tough for you, let's sit down and work out something that makes sense."

There is another strategy banks employ, though. An unfortunate strategy banks apply quite successfully in their other financing operations: severe penalties for defaulters.

CIBC's student-loan service bureau, EduLinx, tol me CIBC runs about one per cent default on personal loans. I haven't done any research, but I think there are probably two main reasons why they achieve this: First, they get to decide who they finance. Second, they make a real example of defaulters.

Loan sharks beat up and kill customers who can't pay up – banks do the next best thing. They harass you for the rest of your life by phone and mail, they restrict your access to everyday amenities, they even stop you from entering foreign countries. In short, they hope others will learn from your example.

The government does not have that option. Or, if they did, it would only last one electoral term.

Now, transpose this onto a student.

Harassing a student, restricting a student's access to credit cards, telephone lines, stopping a student from entering foreign countries, etc., is not going to scare other students into paying back their loans. Or, rather, it is not going to scare other students into finding employment so they can pay back their loans.

The student already has a huge vested interest in finding employment, regardless of anything the bank threatens.

For this reason, I think "risk-sharing" was a strange ploy at reducing student default.

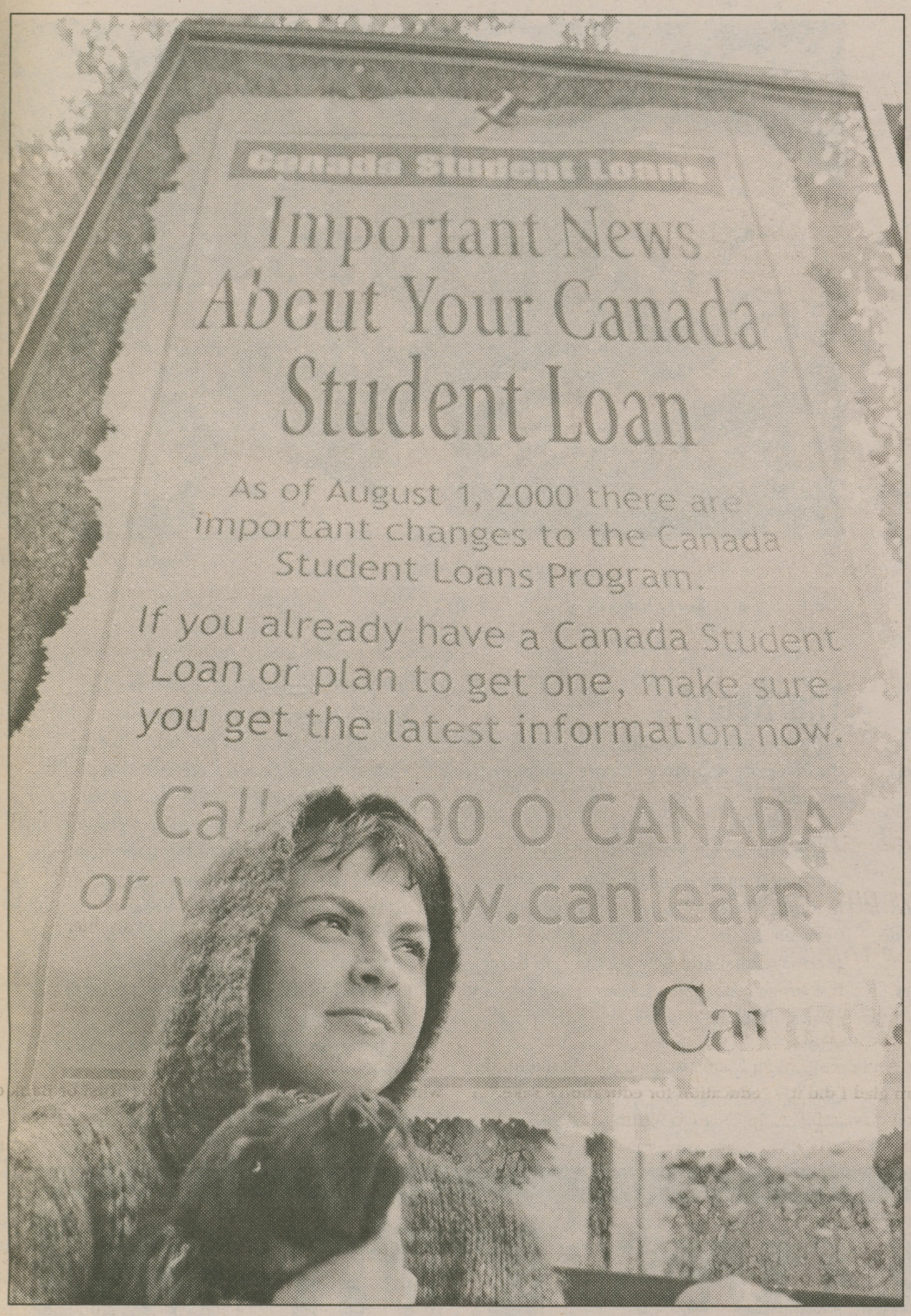
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photo by Gareth Jones

Twenty per cent of students with loans onsolidated in 1998 defaulted – 41 per cent of hom came from private institutions and 11.7 per nt from public institutions.

Default means the student has not made a ayment in 90 days since a payment was due, lthough another possible definition might be that he student has not contacted their bank in 90 days nce a payment was due.

CIBC's Student Loan service bureau, EduLinx, xplained to me that if a student gets in contact with eir bank and explains that they can't make a ayment, the bank might not default the loan.

Default only means that their is no repayment appening on the loan, but the fact a person is in efault is reported in a credit check. It does not ean a collection agency is after the loan yet. Being default, though, has some serious consequences r people wishing to apply for further student loans, terest relief, and loan remission – by being in efault you are ineligible for these programs.

The theory behind this is probably to encourage udents and banks to keep up good communication, nce interest relief and loan remission help out the ank as much as the student.

After a loan has been in default for six months, IBC starts to fret. After a year they write it off and rn it over to a collection agency. The policy is robably similar for Royal and Scotiabank.

As of Aug. 1 "risk-sharing" with the banks is over. anada Student Loans will now be financed by the ederal and provincial governments, not CIBC or cotiaBank or Royal Bank.

When I receive my loan documents, I will cash em in at one of these banks, as has always been done, but instead of owing the bank, I will now owe our governments. This is similar to how the program worked before 1995.

The transition will be seamless and invisible from my point of view. It is a little different for students who have loans from during the "risk-sharing" era. They will have to stay in touch with their lenders, keeping their lenders informed about their status as a student or non-student. (The government will no longer do this automatically, since they have no contractual obligation to do so anymore).

Interest rates (prime + 2.5 for variable, prime + 5 for fixed) will be the same, and repayment will be the same.

My own plan is once I've received my new degree, my more employable, higher GPA, co-op degree, I will apply for a personal loan – credit unions give from prime +2 to prime +4, and I will pay off my student loan in one lump, trading it for a personal loan at a better rate.

The plan is contingent on me finding a job good enough to convince a credit union to do this for me.

Meanwhile, though, my friend Ben continues on his quest to be a lifelong student. "Education for education's sake," and truly so. His degree program: so far he has a B.Mus in Music Composition; he is halfway through a B.A. in philosophy; following this he is looking quite forward to starting a B.Sc in astronomy.

He also has little employment experience, never mind any real desire to be employed. He has no money, no assets. He has no future equity. He is, by definition, in need. He will be 100 per cent qualified for student loans until he finally exhausts the ten year "lifetime maximum" policy.

As long as he continues to be a student, he is protected from the sharp teeth of bank and government financiers.

He owes $40,000 but he is already way past feeling like he has any possible chance of repaying his student loan.

This situation actually lends itself to Ben continuing his schooling, since once he leaves school, he is subject to the demands of his lenders.

My friend, André, finds himself in California right now, starting his first year of graduate studies in Music Composition at CalArts. Again, student loans are providing money.

His employment prospects? He's not going to pay back his student loans by winning music composition competitions. Nor is he going to pay back his student loan working nine to five somewhere, since that is one of the worst things a composer can do to themselves. He doesn't want to teach, at least not right away.

And then there is the sad case of 41 per cent of students at private post-secondary institutions, who went there solely to find employment – the schools are called things like Career Development Institute. And yet, 41 per cent of these students have obviously not found jobs, since their loans are in default.

The problem with student loans is twofold, I find: they do not actually guarantee a job at the end of the tunnel - which is the founding principle of the program. Second, they do not account for students, in need (and therefore applying for loans), whose greatest desire and goal is not employment or higher earnings, but instead to study art or philosophy, to develop their thinking and creative abilities. Hardly a waste of money, but quite unsuited to the idea of a student loan. I don't consider the money my parents had to pay to get me where I am now, $40,000, a waste; they don't either. But the investment doesn't dividend by way of a paycheque. A B.F.A. in Creative Writing (especially with a low G.P.A.) has a more personal, intangible quality, but a quality, nonetheless.

The student loan program is a good program, possibly even the best program for opening up advanced education to anyone who wants it. It is also a flexible program - a student is free to follow nearly any course of study they find themselves passionate about, free to pursue any educational trail towards any kind of employment they believe they would be happy doing. These are tremendous virtues.

Conversely, the rate of default is too high. It betrays a serious failure in the system - thousands of people are advancing their education, and access has opened up - but the raison d'etre, employment, is not being realized for around 22.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the system does not account for people who are truly passionate about advanced education, more passionate about knowledge than ever finding a job, but who lack the resources to attend. Consider even people who don't know quite what they want to do with their lives, like your average 18 year old just out of high school: education is certainly a safe bet. It allows these students access, and then penalizes them for it.

Hits and misses of the Festival

by Colin Plant

While another scholastic year is beginning at UVic, the annual Victoria Fringe Theatre festival has just finished up its run. This year's festival ran from Aug. 24 to Sept. 4, and featured nearly 50 troupes offering up their touring production. Here are some reviews of what you missed.
(And if you're feeling the need to seem knowledgeable about theatre at a cocktail party in the near future, feel free to steal these opinions.)

Photo by Leo A Levich

Joe Pesce and Kerry Weddle in *The Beard*

Virtual Solitaire

written and performed by Dawson Nichols (Seattle)

I have to state that while Dawson Nichol's one-man show was highly engaging because of his virtuoso performance, his script is often too dense and confusing to follow. Nichols won last year's best male performer award for his intriguing *I might be Edgar Allan Poe* but this year's effort, while certainly a solid production, does lose the audience from time to time. After the intermission there were some empty seats.

The play follows the efforts of a young virtual reality addict who is sampling a new system. It is revealed during the game that somebody has been murdered. Is it him? Well, after a couple of hours and a couple dozen characters, you'll know the answer, but you may have no idea how you got there. I bought the script, so if you're like me, confused, drop me a note and we can read the play together and try to make some further sense of it.

Hopefully next year's production will be a little more accessible.

Rating: ***

Partners

written and performed by Jacqueline Korb (Victoria)

There is a belief in theatre that one should not act or direct something you have written because you are too close to it to see it objectively. Sadly, this is the case in local playwright/actress Jacqueline Korb's lesbian infidelity play, *Partners*.

Simply put, Korb drowns her castmate Connie McConnell (who is very good) by dragging her down to the floor of the energy ocean. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how lackluster and even disinterested she appeared in her performance. Sure, there were two moments in the play when she spoke loudly, but overall, she is deadly.

However, the script itself is quite strong. Playing upon the marital infidelity of a lesbian couple, Korb is able to offer insights into the minds of two lovers who aren't sure what to do now next.

Unfortunately the pace of the show suffers greatly, and at 80 minutes the show gets boring. With a bit of editing and a new cast member, this show has potential.

Rating: *1/2

The Beard

written by Michael McClure and produced by the Riverside Repertory Theatre Company (New Mexico)

A fantastic show! *****! Truly one of this year's best offerings is *The Beard* by Michael McClure. Featuring a dynamic relationship between the 'locked in eternity' Jean Harlow (Kerry Weddle) and Billy the Kid (Joe Pesce), this fringe production sizzles in intensity and shows off the talents of two very exciting actors.

Never heard of 'beat' poet/playwright Michael McClure? Well, you're not alone. A contemporary of Jack Kerouac, McClure penned this erotic existentialist play in the 60s. Featuring a repetitive text in the mode of Samuel Beckett and a purgatory-like atmosphere of Sartre's *No Exit*, this play reveals slowly what can happen when we attempt to make and experience physical and spiritual happiness from our own meanings.

The cast is extremely physical and well-suited to the bawdy energy necessary to pull off this show. And while this show is not for the 'virgin' theatre-goer, it does offer the experienced audience member a theatrical experience rarely found in Victoria.

If they come back to Victoria next year, don't miss them!

Rating: *****

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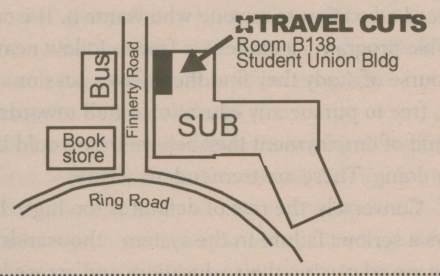

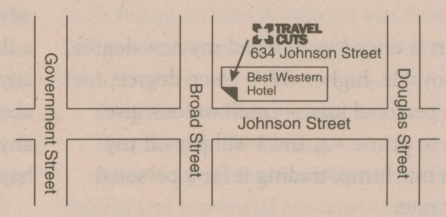

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the Fringe in review...

Democracy InAction

written and produced by Backroom Deals (Victoria)

This local production deserves high marks for effort and originality but unfortunately the actors were under-rehearsed and amateur. Their lampoon of last fall's Victoria civic election was drop-jaw hilarious at times, but unfortunately the overall pace and energy was low.

The play uses the format of an all-candidates meeting to take a few jabs at the political system which they seem to abhor (two of the actors actually stood for election in Victoria).

The four candidates and moderator do a decent job of satirizing those local wannabe political celebrities. Parodies of the multiplex and Victoria's sanitary image were well drafted and overall this 'formed for the fringe' troupe was able to hold onto this audience member's attention for most of the 60 minutes.

The cast was composed of primarily all first-time actors, and it showed as they seemed uncertain what was going to happen next. Particularly humourous and appropriate was the 'one spontaneous question' from the floor which was levied by *Monday Magazine* anti-multiplex crusader Russ Francis. Francis asked the candidates what they thought of the former city manager Don Roughley. Suitable responses ensued. All in all, this show featured a bright script but only average theatrical skills. Here's hoping they come back with a sequel of this spring's provincial campaign.

Rating: **

The all-new Kiwi standup experience

written and performed by Mark Scott and Mike Loder (New Zealand)

'Twas a cold and windy midnight when I entered into the Silver Threads activity centre to catch this show. To be blunt, this show suffered from being played so late at night. The cast admitted as much to the audience several times, and unfortunately for all, the 20 or so of us in the audience forgot that we were allowed to laugh as much as we wanted.

Then again, perhaps we didn't feel inclined. Sure there was the occasional roar of laughter, but all in all, the show only clicked half the time, which is deadly.

The duo from New Zealand do not perform together. And the *Kiwi experience* does not shine through except in the accent. First up was Mark Scott. His self-effacing humour was enjoyable, but his thin premise of "doing the fringe tour" was not very helpful as he bounced around subjects such as cat-rollerbrush painting and defecation.

Much stronger was Mike Loder. His devilish and cynical brand of humour was far more confident and effective as he was able to coax more laughter from the audience.

While both performers were likable, their free-styling performances were not very successful on this night.

Rating: *

Press

written and directed by John Verhaeven (Vancouver)

UVic alumni John Verhaeven returns to Victoria with an interesting but underdeveloped script, which lays out what might have happened during the labour riots of the mid-1950s in Winnipeg. While Verhaeven is able to coax solid performances out of his cast (particularly Matthew Bissett) and displays a strong sense of theatricality (lots of fun little design tricks in this show), his writing is the weak link in the production.

Employing modern dialogue, the episodic play seems to exist more in the 90s than the 50s. A ranting monologue on how buying bananas exploits those picking them stood out like a Liberal at a UVSS AGM. Perhaps a workshop of this production would result in a cleaner, more accurate depiction of what occurred in Canada's windy city 40 years ago.

Rating: **

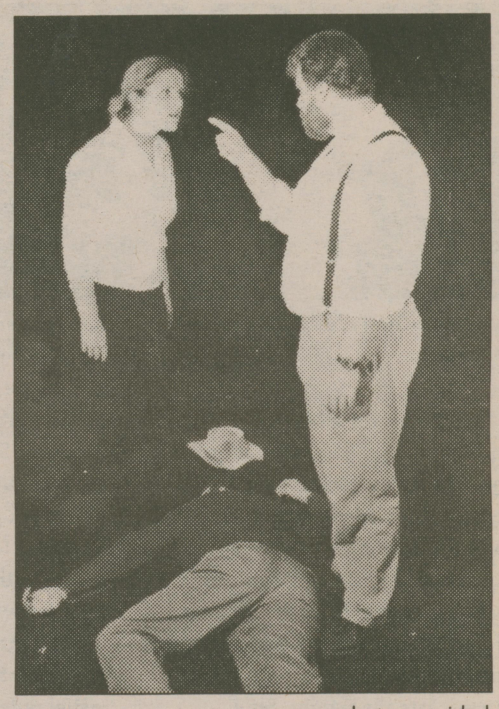

photo provided

Matthew Bissett, Megan Lowrie Cole, Caleb Stull in *The Press*.

It's me, only better

written and performed by Shannan Calcutt (Winnipeg)

Izzy, the lovely and empathetic female clown who brought down houses with both laughter and tears last year is back!!! This year, tired of being stood up, she's decided to join the convent. And today is the day in which she's entering. However, she's having her doubts.

Calcutt is a strong performer with an amazing ability to improvise with the audience. Her timing is strong and her clown is both thoughtful and naïve. Featuring a sequence where she has an audience member confess their sins, this fringe standout was able to coax out a story about a fish, a bad teacher and a locked desk.

The only criticism I have to levy is that her voice sometimes became unclear when it climbed into the higher notes. Her speech is always quick, but when it gets into that upper register, you can find it hard to decipher what is being said. However, I wouldn't put it past the shoddy acoustics in the venue.

There is a third Izzy show in the works, and next year you'll have to catch it.

Rating: *****

continued on page 16

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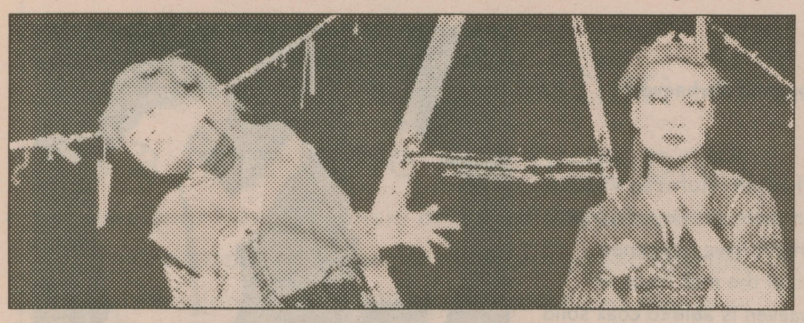
On *Educating Mad Persons*:

An Interview with director Show Ryuzanji



by Jessica Gin-Jade and Hanako Masutani

I am sitting over a bowl of ramen with Show Ryuzanji as he addresses the mechanics behind social relationships. He is repeating a line form the evening's performance of *Educating Mad Persons*, this year's guest performance at the Victoria Fringe. Ryuzanji is the director of this cutting-edge operetta, written by Japan's late playwright, Shuji Terayama. Held at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, the play was performed by Ryuzanji and Company, Japan's Leading Underground Theatre Company, this cutting edge operetta was an indirect artistic assessment of a problematic modern society.

The show is an articulate vocalization that breaks the silence of social pretense. Loud pop-rock music complements the evocative statements spit forth from the characters, dressed in oversized reds, oranges, greens and blues. The actresses have dyed their hair in green, red, yellow and orange; their faces are painted white. These are women dressed for the roles of a brother, father and grandfather in the family-based play. Their red lipsticked-mouths are their most noticeable features as they belt their lines in time with their mechanic motions. Seated on battered black antique suitcases, they look like clockwork puppets, imitation humans. Their costumes contrast greatly with the plain black garb of their fellow actors, their clockwork movements contrast with the natural movements of the black ninjas. This visual difference sets the relationship between puppet and puppeteer, manipulated and manipulator.

I looked for gender symbolism while watching the actresses mime in accordance to the ninjas' commands. Could this play be about the social repression of females! A ninja hits one of the actresses onstage. Dressed as a male in rough work pants, the actress breaks her fall, legs spread, sturdy fists clenched. There is nothing feminine about her gestures. I was disappointed. My theory had been proven wrong. Meanwhile, I felt myself becoming progressively insane as the characters in drag continue their charade of submission and power. They are shouting, screaming, tearing their hair, and throwing the old suitcases about the stage.

Two hours after the show, I am still feeling disorientated. While the characters are seemingly mad, the plot is not about insane characters. A basic storyline drives the play: to identify the insane member amongst the family within the play. However, this storyline is far from the actual thematic focus of the play. The search for insanity is but a disturbing parody of modern society's refusal to accept difference within individuals. Hence, the cultural clash produced through the combination of visual and vocal stimulants produce a sense of disorientation that is central to the play's theme.

"The humanity is important in the play. It's not important whether we use men to play women, or women to play men. We are all the same: man, woman... all the same. Last year, we used men in the women roles when we showed this play in Korea. This year, it is women in men's places. Sometimes I play the only ninja. There are many variations."

Written in 1962, *Educating Mad Persons* is a surprisingly modern play. The script is a birth child of the 1960's Japanese Cultural Revolution. The play draws its inspiration from the famous Japanese Noh School of theatre. These borrowed elements stand out despite their modern spin: the elaborate costumes and highly stylized character movements complete the puppet-puppeteer relationship that is a traditional element of Noh. Set to Makoto Honda's offbeat pop-rock music, the effect is jarring, a stimulant of the senses.

"All Japanese theatre resembles Kabuki because this kind of theatre has been developed in Japan for so long, so our play tonight is also like Kabuki... but I used Noh for a reason. Noh is older than Kabuki, it has stiff movements... like dolls, puppets." Ryuzanji gestures his chopsticks in angular clockwork motions. "We painted the actresses' white... they are like the light colour masks they sometimes use in Noh. The actresses' costumes look like rock stars. Puppets, maidens, prostitutes all dress up, we are all dressed up, all players... equal."

This bold statement produced a crowd of controversy in Edmonton last month when the troupe's actress spat this concept from the stage. Ryuzanji is pleased with the talk the play is producing. His depiction of the puppet as commoner has close links to the rigid social network of modern Japan. Equality and non-conformity are major themes of the play. Cast against a surreal background based on modern Japan, the play indirectly addresses the problems posed by the rigid social network of Japan.

A protégé of the late Terayama, Ryuzanji was trained in the Japanese school of Underground theatre. He is also the good friend of Canadian playwright, Thomson Highway. The two share a two-year-old friendship that includes fond memories of horse betting in Tokyo's Shinjuku district. Ryuzanji speaks of plans to collaborate with Highway in the Canadian Modern Theatre Festival that will be held in Tokyo next year. This festival will showcase the works of Canadian writers Michael Ondaatje and Lee MacDougal.

"In Japan now, the big main performances are commercial, *Les Miserables*, *Cats*... these plays do not say much. It is not our business to criticize society, but to touch issues... bring these issues out, make an audience aware. You can't escape these issues, as they are so deep in today's world. Our main purpose is not really a moral one, we make art. The play must have much meaning, but it is important to be artistic in the end. We call ourselves the Underground Theatre, but we are only 'Underground' in spirit. Not enough people know our way of thinking, that makes us 'Underground.' But we perform very ..." Ryuzanji pauses, searching for the right word.

"Very 'Overground,'" I offer, placing my palms one on top of the other as explanation.

"Right, very 'Overground,'" he smiles at me, looks over the next table at his troupe.

The lifestyle of the traveling 12 actor group is an echo of the themes addressed in the play, continuing to live out of suitcases for the next year. This visiting troupe is only half of the company's entire membership; their counterparts are presently touring Japan. The company tours on a domestic and international level with hopes to introduce the Underground Theatre philosophy to other regions in the world. The philosophy focuses on the individual as opposed to ostracizing differences in society. While the Underground artistic forms have evolved through the last 40 years, their philosophy has remained the same. Ryuzanji believes this is due to its fundamental truth. This belief fuels the company's need for artistic creativity.

Educating Mad Persons will be performed in Vancouver from Sept. 8 to 13.

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Finding art on campus

by Elizabeth Macdonald

Flower Bell Shelter by R.J.H.

Between the McPherson Library and the Ring Road under an oriental-style shelter sits a metal bell. The lower portion is a lotus and the upper is a moveable, similarly curved shape with a knocker which when swung will chime against the stamen of the lotus. Too bad its ringer is missing, as I am sure the pause and sound would be soothing to stressed students, staff and faculty.

Welcoming Figure by Floyd Joseph

Hidden between the Petch Building and Engineering Wing is a welcoming figure by Floyd Joseph. B.C. First Nations erect large carved figures on the edge of their villages to welcome visitors, but this one has a twist.

It towers with out-stretched arms, attired in a white lab coat with native geometric trim, black trousers and red shoes, and is topped off with a 'hat' of three four-legged creatures. It dominates the garden enclave without overwhelming it.

McPherson Library Walls

When you can take your eyes off book call numbers, take notice of the excellent prints and paintings on the walls. There are hundreds of works by B.C. artists including Pavelic Myfanwy, Herbert Siebner, Michael Morris, Jorgensen Flemming, Harvey Donald, Maxwell Bates and Jack Shadbolt.

Among the First Nations artists represented are Roy Henry Vickers, Bill Reid, George Hunt and Tony Hunt. Native prints are grouped in the Reserve Library and interspersed throughout the building. The Maltwood Gallery has the complete list with location. Do not overlook the McPherson Gallery's changing exhibits.

It's on your right has you enter. Register your opinions.

Maltwood Gallery, University Centre

The expanse of the permanent collection can be viewed onsite in their studio gallery or through the web. (www.maltwood.uvic.ca). Currently, The Attic Project by UVic graduate Eric Metcalfe is on display. He will be speaking at the Museum on Sept. 21, 4-6 p.m.

The Scope of the University by Professor A. Wilfred Jones, 1960

The Scope of the University, done in oil, depicts the "authentic symbols representing most of the professions or fields of study" at the University in 1960. Interestingly, Architecture, Medicine and Pharmacy are no longer offered. Some new fields not depicted in the work are Indigenous studies programs, Computer Sciences, Environmental Studies, Nursing, Pacific and Asian Studies and Women's Studies. Times they are a changing.

The A.W. Johns Gallery, in the MacLauren Building, displays changing exhibits of Art Education students and faculty. Worth a look as you pass through.

Stroh Violin by August Stroh, London 1900

Cases of old musical instruments are on the upper floor, in the music wing of MacLauren. The Stroh violin, is so curious it's worth a visit. It looks like a cross between kitchen funnels and a wash tub bass. It was designed to focus the violin's sound while recording in a studio at the turn of the 20th century. Look at the Russian Bassoon with a dragon's mouth, too.

Transformation Pole by Don Smith, Coast Salish 1993

Carved of cedar, about 6' with facial details painted in red and black, this striking sculpture is a wise, large eagle enfolding within its wings of contentment, a human youth. Created in honour of the 20th anniversary of the School of Child & Youth Care, it would be better displayed outside rather than up against the wall. It is as if it has lost its power. Free it to the forest.

Though the inclusion of art is part of the University's objectives not all is well and good. For example, The Centre for Innovative Teaching with its state of the art technology and layouts, lacks equivalent thought in its space for art. The art displayed, such as the hanging stained glass in the foyer and glass pieces in the cases, ineffectually uses the space and has no impact resulting in a pathetic impression. With the wonderful collection at the Maltwood, a Visual Arts Department and trained staff available surely something exciting can be done.

This week, the Maltwood is publishing an update of its brochure,"Self tour of Art." Have a look around to find the different pieces of art work around campus between classes.

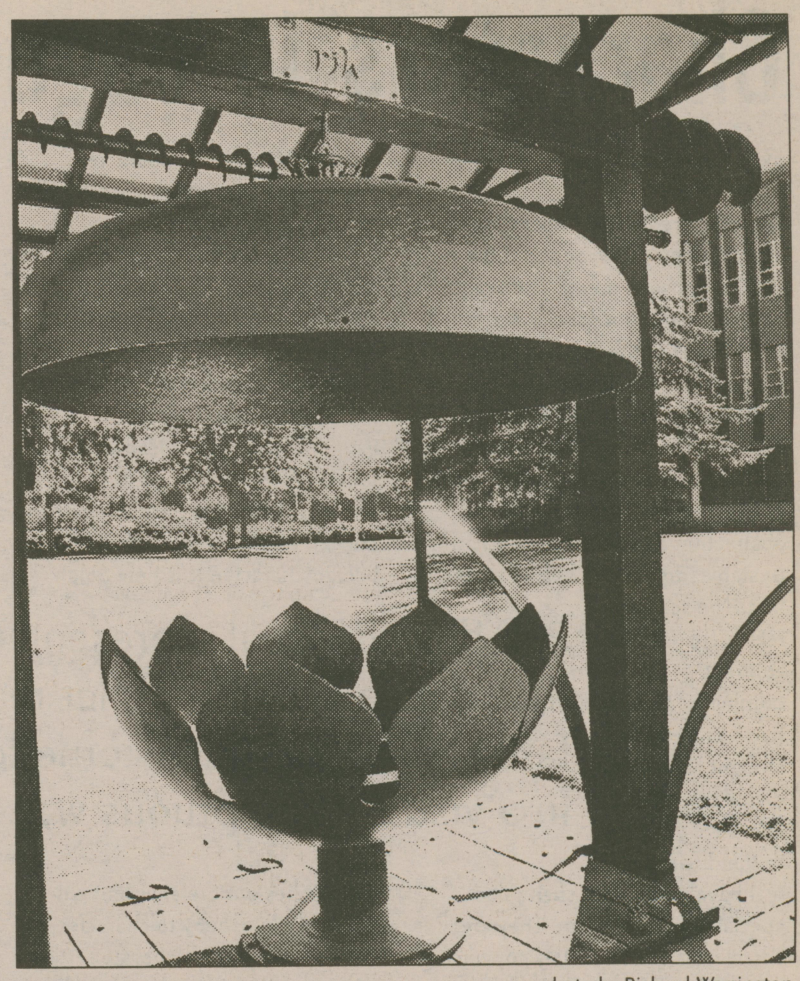

photo by Richard Warrington

Unfortunately, this Flower Bell is missing it's ringer, it's sound would surely soothe stressed out students and facutly.

photo by Richard Warrington

This Welcoming Figure stands outside the Engineering Building.

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Characters in cages

by Ben Redhead

The Cell, directed by Tarsem Singh, is a psychological horror about the conflict between dream and reality, conscious and unconscious and every frame of the film suggests the divide and struggle between the two.

The astounding sequences that take place in the subconscious are well represented by organic lines and rich colour and just enough abstraction and fantasy to add an unstable, dream-like quality to the film. The scenes of reality are, in contrast, dominated by harsh angles and straight lines which divide the scenes in complete contrast to the dream world.

I have never seen such good special effects in a film. They are seamless and completely convincing, but I found myself asking if they were in the service of the story or rather to bolster a weak and unoriginal script. As horror films go, *The Cell* is not scary, but it uses art and technology to its fullest potential to create a look which is unparalleled to date.

Unfortunately, the visual quality of *The Cell* is weighed down by unmotivated and static characters such as FBI agent Peter Novak, played by Vince Vaughn.

Although the roles are not badly acted, Singh misses the opportunity to develop more psychological thrill in what is supposed to be a psychology-driven film. Singh assumes that the viewer is satisfied by the wild visual representations of the psyche to completely understand the character's motivations, but the audience never gets to see this aspect of Novak and character development is weakened by these assumptions.

The script offhandedly informs the viewer that Novak has a personal vendetta against serial killers and moves on, not taking the time to completely acquaint the audience to the incident or to round-out Vaughn's character. Meanwhile, the film dives into the mind of child therapist Catherine Deane (Jennifer Lopez), elaborating on what is a fairly benign character. It is here Singh approaches a more environment-inspired philosophy to character development. The elaborate setting of her subconscious is a blend of her real and fantasy worlds which come together in a visually sumptuous way. She controls her subconscious as a cross between the Virgin Mary and Joan of Arc. Singh uses somewhat stereotyped female hero identifications, but they are employed in service of a strong female lead which is refreshing.

> Full of wild visual representations of the psyche, a blend of her real and fantasy worlds which come together in a visually sumptuous way.

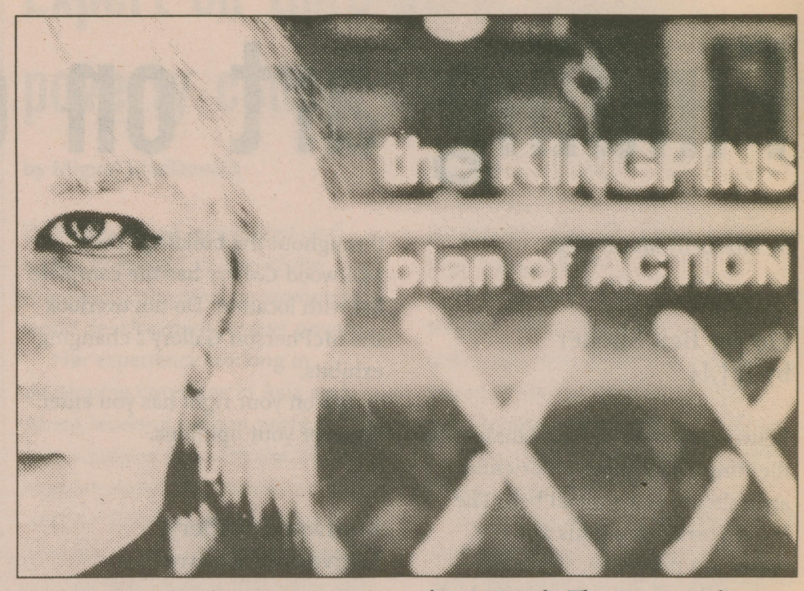
The fact that Novak and Deane do not end up in each other's arms, instead carry away the scars of their ordeal in solitude, is a nice contradiction to the Hollywood norm. Catherine rarely relies on anyone other than herself and her mentor (played by Marianne Jean-Baptiste who did an excellent job in *Secrets and Lies*), showing a strong edge to a stereotyped sympathetic character, yet it is strangely her compassion for people that is the ultimate motivation for her final violent action. This helps add dimension to the banality of her character as Singh forces her to act on her compassionate beliefs with a strong will.

Most of the astounding visual effects take place in the mind of the serial killer Carl Stargher and the visual representations of the subconscious really work towards character development. It is here where the film is infused with imagery from artists and writers like Francis Bacon, Damian Hirst and William Blake. The art comes off the walls, the words come off the page and interact with the story, trying to push and expand the Stargher as a character.

Singh, working with production designer Tom Foden and visual effects co-ordinator Kevin Huag, try to outrun the weak script by Mark Protosevich with overwhelmingly elaborate visuals, and to a certain extent are able to overcome where the script fails by attributing Stargher's rare case of homicidal schizophrenia to childhood trauma. There are no new motivations or insights here, just incredible ways of visually sounding them out for the viewer.

The Cell offers extreme visual escape, even if the weak characters and underdeveloped plot lines are sometimes glossed over by the effects which could have been used more in service of the story.

CD REVIEW:



The Kingpins
Plan of Action
Stomp Records

by Katharine Effa

If you're a huge fan of ska music, then the Kingpins newest album *Plan of Action* is a cd I would highly recommend listening to. The group of four is currently in the middle of their cross-Canada tour, titled "Sharp Suits, Sharp Sounds," with Switzerland's based ska band, The Peacocks.

Both bands played at the Icehouse on Saturday, Sept. 2. Before they went on stage, I had the opportunity to speak with two members of the Kingpins about their newest album.

The band started in Montréal in 1994. Since then they have produced three albums including their newest one *Plan of Action*. The album's 13 songs include two French songs that showcase the band's Montréal-based Quebecois background, and two excellent singles 'Designated Driver' and 'Supernova.'

Since the start of their band six years ago, the Kingpins sound has changed considerably.

"This cd has gotten a little bit more girly but as ironic as it sounds, we're going for a tougher sound" said Josh Jacko Fuhrman, saxophonist and background vocalist. The addition of lead singer Lorraine hasn't been the sole influence of this new sound. "It's the direction we all naturally wanted to go," said Josh.

Lorraine's voice mingles perfectly with the rhythm section of the songs. Her versatile voice sounds sweet yet rough; a perfect blend for the entire cd. The songs on the album were drawn from the inspiration of each of the members of the group. Josh continued,

"Some of the songs are very personal and based on personal experiences so the conception of the songs was a collaborated group effort." When asked about other music groups that influenced the sound of the new cd, Jason, the band's bass player replied, "This new album is definitely a reach back to our childhoods, music we grew up with in high school like 80s alternative. This is like mod revival of the 80s." Josh added "It's definitely a lot punkier and a lot tougher, but we can't help that. It's reaching back into our roots and influences of that era."

The cd *Plan of Action* sounds like Sublime meets Blondie. Some of the songs sound even comical like song seven "Bordel." Josh commented, "There's a touch of quirkiness, which wasn't expected but is there." Although there are 80s punk influences, the band has moulded their separate music ideals into a sound that is unique.

Jason said "What the Kingpins has been over the years, because we've had so many members come and go, it's always been the Canadian ska super-group. Essentially the best of Canadian Ska. We've had people from other groups come play with us for a while." Josh added "It's like a hostile take-over of all the other groups (laughs)."

Although a couple of the members of the Kingpins haven't been part of the group since 1994, and were part of their own separate groups, their music has blended all their separate influences into a album that is hip, funky and enjoyable to listen to.

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More notes from the rodeo

continued from page 9

rope around her neck and gag her mouth.

After the yodelling subsides, I wait with my guitar while the introducer prepares the audience. His name is Hugh and he stands over seven feet tall, including hat. His mountainous stature offsets any comfort I find in his friendly squint. The sun has tanned his skin like a good hide.

His handlebar is perfect white, neatly combed and bushy. The room resonates with his voice, which is warm, like a hot soapy bath in a tin tub. Hugh hosts a traditional Western music show on the regional country station, and he calls it Spirit of the West.. I have never heard the show, or the station. I wonder if he's heard of the band.

"This next performer is from the West," Hugh announces. "So far west that what you gotta do is go west to Prince Rupert, then keep going west past the Queen Charlotte Islands, and keep going across the Pacific Ocean till you come to Japan, then keep going west through Asia, and Russia and Scandinavia and Europe until you come to England. And that's where this man's from. He's from London, England. Let's give him a friendly Cariboo welcome."

He leaves no doubt in anybody's mind. I am a phony.

The microphone is big and red like a fat fist. I sit on a three-legged stool and say, "Hello?" No response. They are shy, I must remember. A shy audience. Nobody has worn them in quite right. They may be more nervous than me. In the bright stagelight, I can only make out the faces of the first three rows. Beyond this: shadowy figures, some sitting, some leaning against the bar. I hear a shuffle of spurs. They sure don't look nervous. The old adage reminds me to picture my audience naked. I'm not going to risk picturing these guys naked in case they catch on. But they must want a break from yodelling. That's all I need to provide.

"One or two of you may have gathered that my clothes are not 100-percent authentic," I begin, not knowing whether to do the English accent or the cowboy one. It comes out sounding like Arlo Guthrie, but I doubt they notice. "So, with reference to that, my song is called, 'Born 6,000 Miles Too Far to the Right.'" I win a faint murmur of laughter, which injects enough confidence in me to try: "There is a chorus to this song...I don't expect you to sing it." Another murmur. Good enough. Time to start the guitar.

I was born in London, England,
where 10 million reside.
From the early age of 18 months,
I'd an ambition deep inside
To turn into a cowboy, like those
people on T.V.
When I looked into Clint
Eastwood's eyes, all I could see was
me.

Well, they clapped. My first set made the grade. Sipping water in the interval, I know the second set will be fine. I'll perform poetry by Sue Wallis and Gary McMahon, and my phony accent and costume won't matter because the audience knows the joke now. In fact, I feel rather pleased with myself until I meet the chest of mountainous Hugh, the radio man.

"Hi," I smile, nervously. Will he offer me a spot on his radio show? Kid, you're going places. I want you to sing at the Pan-American Fake Cowboy Contest in Nashville.

His weathered eyes are friendly, but not too friendly.

"Try to keep it Western," he says, and walks past me to the bar.

I know I won't be accepted here. I know I won't get shot, either, and that plus the $50 cheque suits me fine. Cowboys take themselves seriously. Cowboy poets do too, and rightly so. They belong to a historic tradition. They genuinely work the ranch by day and pen poetry by night, reading it to other cowfolk at the dinner table or around the campfire.

So am I wrong for thinking, "Jeez, 'Try to keep it Western!' What a stupid, un-ironic, redneck thing to say?" Of course. But I don't respect these leather-clad ponces any more than they respect me.

The poet who followed my slot was called Frank. He told anecdotes about city slickers who get into trouble when they confront Real Life out here in ranch country. The audience lost its timidity to bray like laughing sheep at his anti-civilization witticisms. Yee-haw.

Culture-jumping is dangerous. It can leave you enlightened but also stranded in mid-air. I'm used to it, though, and I'm not alone up here. It's becoming an identity of its own. My mother coined the name for this new nationality, which she shares as an ex-Canadian now living in England. It's called: "In an airplane 3,000 feet above Iceland with a rye-and-ginger-ale in your hand." You might call that a typical postmodern position. I don't know what the cowboy poets would say.

Seven self-published poets sublime:

An evening of poets who pay to get their work published

by Tasha Marsden

What would it take to get a social worker, a professional pet portrait artist, a First Nations support worker, a street outreach counsellor, a Creative Writing Ph.D. student recently featured on Bravo, a telecommunications technician and a clown all in the same room? Jill Margo, owner of Fine Words Chapbooks, has the answer: an evening book launch featuring the Seven Poets Sublime."

This Saturday, Sept. 9, the Open Space Galllery will showcase seven writers who have released chapbooks with the local self-publishing company over the past year. Margo prides her company on being completely author-driven, accepting anything outside the realms of hate literature, libelous or pornographic material.

"I think the common thread is they're all uncensored thoughts."

This is the second book launch for Fine Words, forging a successful path for Margo since she put out a book of her own poetry two years ago. After it raised eyebrows, Margo got the hint that self-publishing could be a wonderful opportunity for people. She left her job and admits to making a profit in a risky market. She has published upwards of 20 books, most of which have been poetry and prose, although two cookbooks and several non-fiction works are on the way.

"The quality of the writing that I am seeing is really quite good, ranging from authors like David Bateman who is just excellent to people who are really quite new at this."

The seven poets offer diverse insights into the human condition, from the reflections of UVic grad Mark Lindenberg on the "slippery acceptance of life, love and lust with a disbaility" to Roy Green's eccentric picture book for adults.

Self-publishing can be ideal for those who want a smaller initial print run, said Margo. It also is an easy solution to bypassing larger more discriminating publishing houses. Not only does Fine Words give authors full editorial and aesthetic control, but also gives them total claim to the book's profits and rights.

The seven writers heard of Margo and her services mainly by virtue of word of mouth, through local media coverage of Victoria's self-publishing scene and various writing events. Beth Core won a gift certificate for Fine Words at last year's launch, and another will be given out on Saturday.

Core, Green, Lindenberg, Bateman, Janet Rogers, Catherine Snowden and Robert Johnson follow in the tradition of literary icons like Virginia Woolfe, Rudyard Kipling, Mark Twain and Anaïs Nin who have also published their own work.

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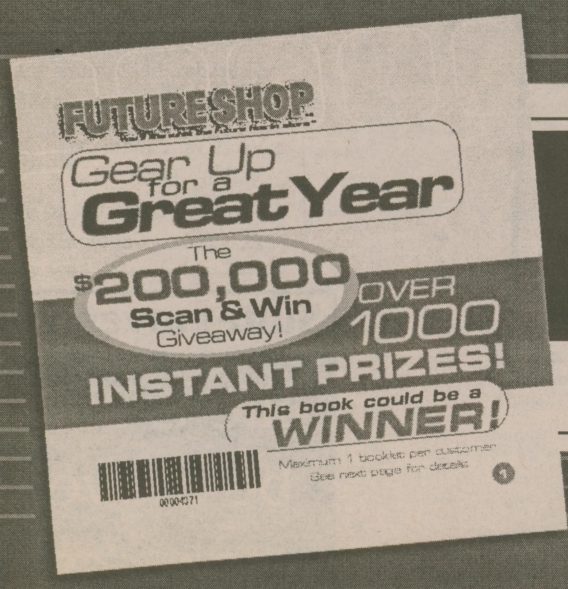
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photo provided

Women's Vikes after winning their basketball championship banner.

Vikes rally for a winning season

by Will Akehurst

Three... championships won last year by the Vikes.
Two... weeks until the women's soccer home opener.
One... new athletics team beginning this year.
Zero... the number of loses by the men's soccer team last season.

The count down has begun for another exciting year in university athletics.

With high hopes and determination the Vikes are looking to defend their Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) championships in women's basketball and women's middle distance and their women's rowing Canadian University Championship.

The women's basketball team is looking to take the CIAU champions again this season. To help the Vikes on their quest, coach Kathy Shields persuaded former UVic student Angela Mangan to return to the squad for her fifth year of eligibility. Mangan was a part of the National Championship team in 1997-98 and was also crowned leading rebounder that season.

Fresh out of Nechako Valley Secondary School, in Vanderhoof, B.C., where she previously taught and coached, Mangan's presence will be welcomed. Along with the return of Lindsay Brooke the women's squad looks prime for another impressive year.

Coach Shields was not the only busy person during the off season. Men's basketball coach Guy Vetrie also got into the action. Vetrie signed blue chip prospect Chris Trumpy from Oak Bay Secondary School.

Trumpy is expected to add extra impact to this year's young team on their road toward the championship.

Another bright spot to watch for this year will be the men's soccer team. After posting a pair of goose eggs in the losses department over the past two seasons the team is looking toward bringing a championship home this year.

This must have been running through Bruce Wilson's mind as well. During the off season Wilson signed Chris Craveiro.

Craveiro, an excellent talent, has been signed as an amateur by the Vancouver 86'ers. Playing along side with last years' squad, the fall season looks to be promising for the men's Vikes soccer team.

This fall will also mark the inauguration of the Vikes' first golf team.

The team will be headed by coach Brian Carberry, assistant coach Ron Froleck and will be using Uplands as its home club. The Vikes golf team will be competing in a number of tournaments, both local and national.

The team will likely consist of five men and five women. All you golfers out there keep your eyes open for try outs.

The Vikes are looking once again for strong performances from its teams. It can only be expected that with its proven determination and athleticism the Vikes will be gunning for championships all round. Good luck to all of the Vikes teams, and remember students, regular season home games are free as long as you have your student card.

UVic Men's Exhibition Soccer

UVic Vikes @ Seattle University
Sept. 2nd, 2000
FINAL SCORE:
UVic 1
Seattle U. 1
GOAL SCORERS:
UVic: Will Moore (31st minute)
Seattle U.: Craig Johanson

UVic Vikes vs. Concordia U @ Seattle, Sept. 3rd, 2000
FINAL SCORE:
UVic 1
Concordia U. 0
GOAL SCORERS:
UVic: Nico Craveiro (49th minute)
Shutout: Jordan Robinson

PRESEASON RECORD: 3-0-1

NEXT EXHIBITION GAMES:
Vikes vs. Malaspina College
Thursday, September 7 @ 8:30 p.m. - Centennial Stadium

Vikes vs. Canadian Military Team
Sunday, September 10 @ 2:00 p.m. - Centennial Stadium

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Postcard from a cowboy in Italy

by Erin Richmond

Sasha wrangled into this city all leather swagger and broken teeth. He was scarred clean down the middle of his face and his hands were dirty. We became fast friends.

Even an outlaw like myself – a loner ready to sleep out under the stars – can't help but get sentimental about a kid who rolls into town with nothing but a wool blanket and a six string guitar.

He's a minimalist, a cowboy poet, a wordslinger who doesn't give a toot if he loses position for travel, writing or falling in love.

We were new in town with no big plans to stay.

Many nights we stayed up wishing we were either bold enough or stupid enough to quit school and take off, climb into the heart of a volcano. We were always on the look out for walls to walk through and fences to climb. We knew there was something bright waiting beyond the borders, maybe a roller skate, maybe a fistful of dynamite.

By October of our first year we choralled a group of late-night partiers together to run naked around Elk lake. The cops came poking through the bushes with flashlights and we saddled up fast and hit the highway, cackling the whole way home.

My memories of sweet Sasha, the slick, counterfeit cowboy have taught me much about displacement in the postmodern world. As much as we think we're doing alright by killing all the universal truths – friendship, love, candy floss, Christmas – the posthumanist irony sucks.

The photographs I just picked up at the one-hour joint say it all. He strums a six-string at the beach wearing a white Stetson. You can't see his blue swim trunks, circa 1955, with the surfers painted across the crotch. And, of course, you can't see him fumbling with the frets for Springsteen's *The River*.

My memories of sweet Sasha the slick, counterfeit cowboy have taught me much about displacement in the postmodern world. As much as we think we're doing alright by killing all the universal truths – friendship, love, candy floss, Christmas – the posthumanist irony sucks.

Nostalgia is the bright blood thrumming through my veins.

Sasha and I came from opposite ends of Ontario thinking Victoria was the best damn place we'd ever seen. We were ready to gain some smarts, saddle our horses and share a bottle of Wild Turkey under the stars.

Then there were the flights away – the attempt to stand outside the precious garden we call Victoria, the little prep-school virgin-bitch, and clear the head.

Just before school started in second year we clipped over to Port Angeles to pay homage to Raymond Carver. We eyeballed the greatest American short fiction writer's tomb stone like it was a snippet from the Dead Sea scrolls. It was one of those nights that seals a friendship.

We read Carver's epigraph till it was marble in our heads. "And did you get what you wanted out of this life even so?/I did./ And what did you want?/To see myself beloved./ To feel myself beloved on the earth."

We toasted Carver, two drunks to another, and missed the last ferry home. We ended up staying the night wrapped in army blankets huddled between grave stones.

He tied his size eleven Converse high tops to a telephone line along the cemetery, scrawled Carver's poem onto the receipt from his phone bill and nailed it to the pole, never having paid the bill, never planning to, but believing wholeheartedly in the cause.

We rarely did things you wouldn't call stupid.

A rainy night that winter we fought over the importance of making direct reference to Greek and Roman history in poetry, and decided in our semi-conscious haze that an issue of such consequence deserved an arbitrator. Young, arrogant and stunned, we called Al Purdy at 3 a.m. from a 7-Eleven pay phone. He told us to keep writing, quit school and go to bed.

We kept writing. We stayed in school. Our work loads got heavy and we buckled down. A couple of years passed and we saw less of each other. We were working hard, long hours. Our eyes got tired of the same ol' things. The same *people, the same conversations. We* ended relationships. Started new ones.

Then one night in the midst of slinging pints Sasha pulled out a tattered map of Canada and said he'd decided his life in this ol' town was wrapping up.

School was almost through. It was clear to him it was time for moving on.

Now he's hurdling borders somewhere along the Italian countryside. Yesterday I got a postcard in the mail.

She's a small woman from a small town in the North, he writes.

He doesn't stop to think for a second before he serenades her through dense swarms of grapes. She probably hasn't even heard of The Boss, and that's his point.

First thing she notices is this huge scar down his face.

Fall

by bren simmers

First day of September and there are leaves, small yellow sails, in the gutters. My tomatoes are frozen, green globes hung and waiting. Already the air has changed. Summer is fading out, a line of smoke at midday. I feel the cold in my house again; I made soup for the first time in months, checked the wood pile to see how long it would last.

I've been resisting fall, the way one resists studying, every hour prolonged by a kind of longing. Did I taste every fruit as it came in succession? Strawberry, cherry, mango, then raspberry, blueberry, peach, followed by blackberry, plum, pear. Did I savour midnight swims and nights spent drinking on my porch?

Outside squashes tumble on the ground, next to beans and flowering basil. Fall is a time of harvest, of *celebration. A time of full berth. Summer is lazy, hot days and popsicles. People are dandelion seeds blowing* across asphalt. In the fall they settle somewhere, root their ideas, wait to see them sprout in the spring.

Fall also brings rain, percolation, stillness. Labour Day, Thanksgiving, Solstice. Holidays that revolve around cycles of light, harvest, and the spiritual world. Although we may be removed somewhat from natural cycles in the city, we still feel the urge to recluse, to sleep 10 hours a night. A friend of mine honours these natural cycles by living without electric lights around winter solstice.

Being a recent graduate, no longer reliant upon school rhythms I am discovering my own. This fall I will fill my days with long walks in blustery winds, a mug of hot chocolate in hand, wearing a warm scarf and mittens with strings.

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email: kfagan@uvic.ca or phone 721-8339

Revisiting memories a slow anaesthetic lifting

Both pieces by Anna Swanson

I tell the stories of my family and, whether I was there or not, somehow they are my stories too. I feel like I'm cheating sometimes, writing things that aren't from my own memory.

My mother tells me about growing up with four generations in one house. She wouldn't share a bed with her grandmother, so her sister had to. Her grandmother, Bubby Annie, was difficult and so was she, and there wasn't a lot of room to maneuver in that family. What can you do? You can name your first daughter after this woman who smoked in your sister's bed half the night, but after that? My mother tells me she carries this question around with her. What could I have done? she wants to ask Bubby Annie.

My cousin Linda goes to the hospital to have a hernia operated on and they send her home two hours later, without realizing how strongly her body has reacted to the anesthetic. She vomits for 24 hours until she thinks she's torn open the inside of her stomach. When she stops throwing up, she discovers that her stitches are fine and that it's time that has strangely opened up inside her. The people who care about her are all close by. It makes no difference when she knew them, who is alive and who is not: Her dead mother, having crossed years and the thin veil between the worlds, is as present as my mother who walks across the co-op to see her. When suddenly stops mattering. She has access to memories she hasn't know about for years. This all lasts about a week. I am relieved when she tells me she's taken time off work, imagining how hard it would be to hold together inside a body where time has stopped working the way we understand.

A week later, my mother has emergency dental work and the anesthetic wears off in the middle of the surgery. In the time it takes for the dentist to refill the needle and push it into her gums, the pain takes her back to a hospital in Russia where she stands at the head of a bed and watches her 15 year old grandmother have surgery without anesthetic to remove pieces of shrapnel from her hip. When I call, she says she's been thinking about her grandmother all week. I tell her I've been writing about Bubby Annie too. I ask her when the surgery was, and we discover I have written a piece about Bubby Annie the exact afternoon that she went to the dentist.

I wonder if that's the way life works at us sometimes. Our chosen anesthetic wears off, and before we can start working or drinking or hiding again, the pain of that one instant sends us back to somewhere we didn't even know we'd been. Except it doesn't have to be pain, it can be a smell or a story or some strange working of our body. You could have been there for my surgery with no anesthetic, Bubby Annie tells my mother, you could have been there.

I tell the stories of my family and, whether I was there or not, somehow they are my stories too. I feel like I'm cheating sometimes, writing things that aren't from my own memory. And yet who am I to hold time so tightly? It's unsettling to realize we have no idea which stories will describe us when we're not around to tell them ourselves. These stories are the pieces of my family that I carry with me to tell myself where I've been. If home is somewhere halfway between here and the old world, then we also live in stories, those creatures that thrive in gap between here and there.

Ruining the Shabbes' table cloth

When Val and I traveled to Jerusalem, one of the first things we did was visit a religious family for shabbat dinner. Val had grown up more 'Jewish' than me, but we were both curious to see what Judaism was like in an ultra-orthodox home. Not only were ultra-orthodox Jews strictly kosher, but they observed the rules of shabbes completely: No writing or working, no making fire or phone calls, no turning on or off anything electric. The front door was left open so that visitors wouldn't have to ring the doorbell. The toilet paper was pre-ripped into individual squares so you wouldn't have to tear it yourself. I guess that counted as work.

Within 10 minutes of arriving, I accidentally turned off the bathroom light and Val told me that now it would have to stay off until the end of shabbat, tomorrow night. I imagined everyone peeing in the dark. At least she knew all the prayers and understood what was going on; I had no idea. I knew that following each rule – keeping kosher, lighting the shabbes candles, not turning off the bathroom light – was a mitzvah, a good act that would help to bring the messiah. I just didn't know what all the rules were.

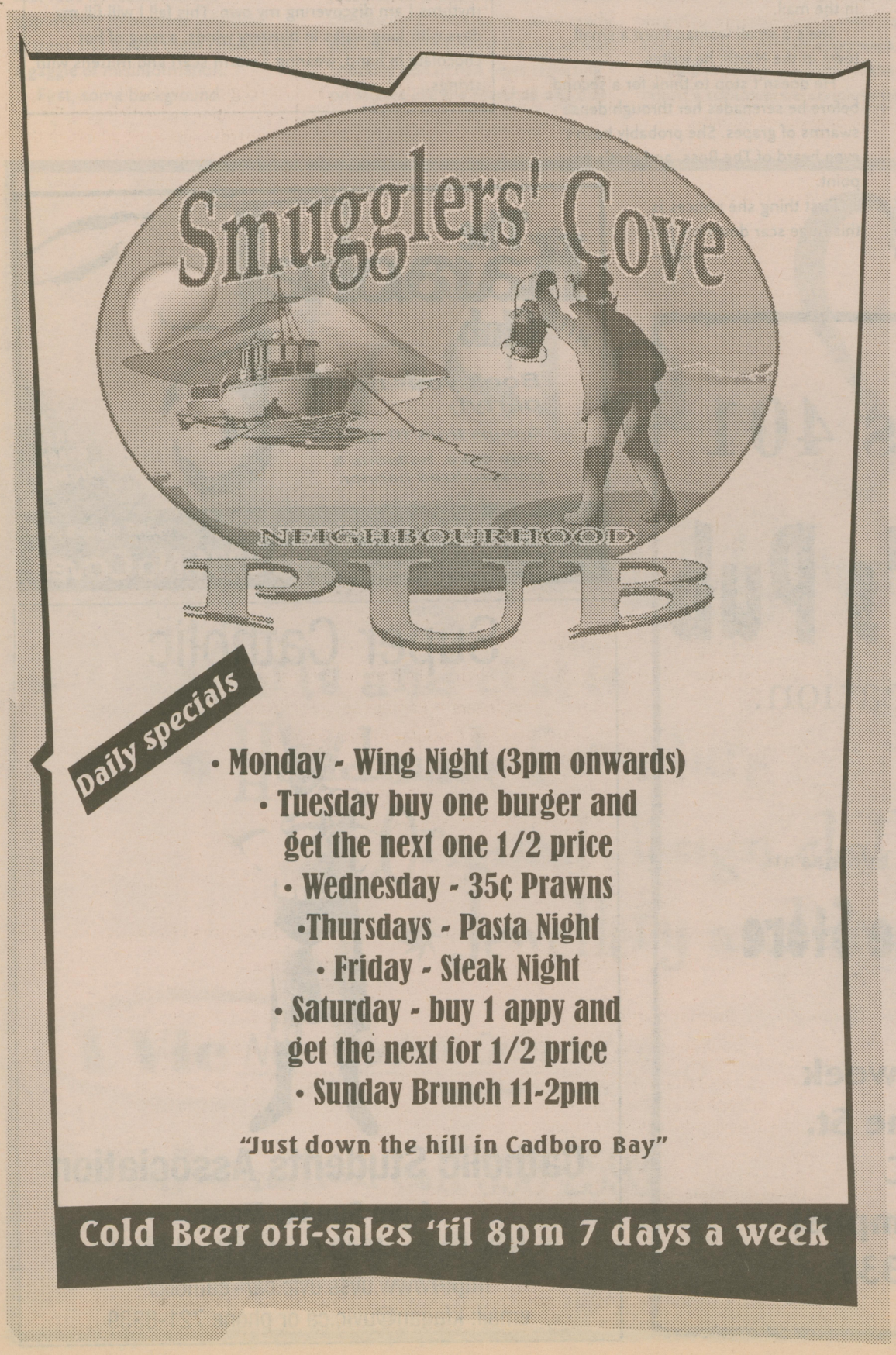
Our hosts were a young woman with a red scarf over her head, because married women shaved their heads, and a loud man with dark curly hair who kept making their beloved sons tell us what they had learnt that week about the Torah. They weren't rich by any means, but all the family treasures were out that night: the silver goblet, the embroidered cloth over the chalah, the old candlesticks and, of course, the beautiful white linen table cloth. Other than that, their flat was small and plain and, to tell the truth, I was shocked at the amount of food that later came out of the kitchen and wondered how they could afford to eat like that.

Then all of sudden no one was talking and the mother was pulling us into the kitchen to wash our hands. She motioned for me to pour the water over my right hand, then left, then right again, while she said the prayer one line at a time so I could repeat it after her. Back at the table the father filled the silver wine glass to the rim, hoisted it into the air and said the blessings in Hebrew, his voice as quick and sure as his arm. It was amazing the way he held it there, eyes closed and head bowed and didn't spilled a drop. Then all the other prayers, the chalah, the candles were forgotten and finally people started speaking again, arguing about the Torah and the neighbours and talking over each other as if they had never stopped.

And the food. There were so many plates I could barely see the table cloth shining up between them. They kept offering me meat and I kept saying I was vegetarian until finally I filled my entire plate with vegetables, kugel and potatoes and they seemed happy. Just when I was finally starting to relax, it happened.

I reached for more kugel and watched as my hand hit my glass and spilled kosher Manechevitz wine all over the white table cloth. I looked around for something to clean it up with but it was everywhere and all I had was a tiny cloth napkin. The father turned around to see what had happened and the table went quiet.

He looked at me. Then he looked at the table cloth. Then he looked at me. Then he laughed and raised up his own glass and bellowed out, a mitzvah! Everyone cheered and laughed and drank. Was it possible he hadn't understood? I certainly didn't understand. Your cup overfloweth, he explained, from the Torah. A mitzvah! They cheered again and laughed at me and he filled up my glass and we drank and more food came from the kitchen and somewhere the Messiah took one step closer on the strange path to this place.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ON CAMPUS

Dunk Tank! Take your best shot at UVic faculty, staff & students. To raise money for charity & promote the week-long series of workshops, **"Why get an education?"** Where/when: **Dunk Tank, Sept. 11, 12 & 14,** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Workshops: **Sept. 11-15**, 7 - 10 p.m. in SUB upper lounge. See you there.

UVic Gaming Convention, Sat. Sept. 23 & Sun, Sept. 24. All day long in Clearihue D-wing. Role playing, miniature, board, strategy and card games. Free for everyone. For more information contact Stacey at sapphirestix@hotmail.com or vic_games@flick.com or see the UVic Games Club during Clubs Days.

Catholic Students' Association September events: Sunday Mass – 4 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. **Welcoming Barbeque – Sun, Sept. 17,** after 4 p.m. Mass. Mt. Douglas hike – **Sat, Sept. 23,** 1 - 4 p.m. Please RSVP at 721-8339. **Catholic Students' fall retreat – Sept. 29 - Oct. 1**. Grow in friendship and explore our spiritual life with other Catholic students at our fall retreat on Thetis Island. Cost is only $35 for the whole weekend. Registration limited to 42 students. Applications are available at the club table or at the Interfalth Chaplain's office, Room 142, Campus Services Building (next to UVic Bookstore).

The South Vancouver Island Mycological Society is a club of amateur and professional mycologists. We foster an interest in fungi and provide opportunities to learn about mushrooms, moulds and other fungi in all their forms and functions. We are a media resource for information on fungi. For further information, please contact our president, Dr. Bryce Kendrick, at 655-5051.

Fridaymusic, at Phillip T. Young Recital Hall at 12:30 p.m. School of music students perform something different every Friday. Admission by donation. For a weekly schedule update call 721-8559.

OFF CAMPUS

Kokikai Aikido Demonstrations. Kokikai Aikido is a non-aggressive self-defense art emphasizing calmness and relaxation and improving coordination, fitness and gracefulness. Demos on **Mon, Sept. 11,** 8-9 a.m. **Friendship Day** (watch or try a free class) on **Sat, Sept. 16,** 1-2:30 p.m. Scout Hall in Gyro Park, down Sinclair Road hill from UVic. For more info call 472-8340 or go to http://www.csr.uvic.ca/libarra/kokikai.html

Café Philosophy: Taking public philosophy to a new level. Next topic: Happiness – What is happiness? What is the good life? What do we really want? **Wed, Sept. 13** at 7:30 p.m. at Torrefazione Italia (1234 Government St), Cover $4/$3 students. "Food for Thought" pre-session starts at 6:30 p.m. Future topics will be listed weekly. For more info call Michael Picard, Ph.D. at 385-4646 or e-mail pyro@philosophy-shop.com

Effective September 2000, the **Canadian College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine** (CCAOM) is offering courses to members of the public. The clinic is now open for treatment of arthritis, pain, chronic conditions, addictions. For more information on courses or to make an appointment with a student intern, call 384-2942.

Drop by the **Moss Street Market** for the fall harvest. Check out the huge variety of vendors, vegetables, crafts, delicious foods and special event days. The markets, located at Sir James Douglas School (Thurlow and Moss), starts at 10 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. every Saturday until October 14.

James Bay Community Market is home to fresh summer veggies and fruit from local growers, free range eggs, baking, flowers, art and crafts, live music and entertainment, kids' tent and more. The market runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday throughout the summer at the corner of Menzies and Superior Streets.

Drop by the Government Street Market to check out the various crafts, clothing, collectors, music, the atmosphere and fantastic functional gift ideas. This street market is located between Fisgard and Pandora streets and runs Sundays and Holidays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

#1 rated nutritional company opening in Japan in four weeks. Be the first to open massive market. Looking for leaders with contacts. For more information email health&wealth@telus.net

VOLUNTEERS

Be a mentor. Make a difference in a child's life. Become an **In-School Mentor** to an elementary student at George Jay or Burnside School. Visit your student one hour per week & do arts & crafts, play games & sports, bake or pursue other fun and rewarding activities. For more information, call Bonnie at Big brothers & Big Sisters at 475-1117, ext. 306.

Money doesn't grow on trees but communities sure do! **Volunteer with Lifecycles'** urban agriculture programs. For more information call 383-5800.

Forming social group for young adults with learning disabilities. Are you, or do you know of, a young adult who might be interested? Call Judy or Liz for more information 474-1230.

Volunteers wanted (male + female) **to work with groups of pre-teens in a fun-focused program for prevention of drug abuse.** One to two hours a week. Training provided. Two facilitators per group. Call Sylvia at 382-0627 or 388-7696.

Be part of Victoria's coolest film festival. **Antimatter: Festival of Underground Short Film and Video** needs volunteers to help with festival screenings at Open Space Arts Centre. Antimatter runs from **Sept. 15 -24**. Help out with the box office, technical support or ushering and receive one complimentary screening ticket and an invitation to 'Wipe Out' the surf party of the year. For more information call 385-3327.

Enriching our community through friendship. "Community Connections" reach out to persons who have a developmental disability, fostering friendship, community inclusion and shared fun! Consider spending a few hours each week as a mentor and friend. Find out how you can make a difference! Call Citizen Advocacy today at 598-6786.

People inspire! Would you like to encourage or motivate someone to get involved in recreation? **Recreation Integration Victoria** is in need of volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance to people with disabilities while participating in a variety of recreational and leisure activities. To get involved or for more information, please call Ben at 477-6314.

TUTORS

A-ffect Tutoring: Philosophy, English, education. $15/hour. Call Carlos at 881-8784.

FOR SALE

Sport Rent - Annual Rental Equipment Sale. Bikes, canoes, tents, rollerblades, wakeboards, skis, snowboards & much more. Sale starts **Sat, September 9** at 8:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meditation in everyday life. Fri, Sept. 22 at 7;30 p.m., **Sat., Sept. 23** at 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. & **Sun, Sept. 24** from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. $75/seniors, $60; 25 years & under $25. 1201 Fort Street at the Victoria truth Centre - entrance behind main building. This weekend journey is presented with heart & gives us a way to live in a healthier, saner & more meaningful way. Call 386-7996 or 383-9108 for more information.

The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre is currently accepting applications for the Fall 2000 crisis line volunteer training. Women interested in supporting survivors of sexual violence call 383-5545 to sign up for an information meeting on **Sept. 13 or 27** from 6-7 p.m.

Pottery Classes available. Six 21/2 hour classes, $140 + GST. Call 383-5446 for more details.

HELP WANTED

The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) **is hiring** a **Store Manager** for the Amaranth Food Store. Skills required include experience with cooperatives and store management, basic bookkeeping and knowledge of organic food issues. For details see the posting at VIPIRG, SUB B122.

The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) **is hiring** two workstudy positions. A **Conference Organizer** will be hired to begin organizing an international conference on global militarization and peace. **A Desktop Publishers & Web Page Designer** position will be hired to develop materials for VIPIRG's campaign on global militarization and peace. For details see the posting at VIPIRG, SUB B122.

Part-time caregiver for friendly young man with disabilities. Weekend shifts, will train suitable candidates. $10/hour. Call Viktoria at 389-0530.

The Martlet is hiring! We need **you** to fill a variety of positions – **news editors, arts editor, photo editor, copy editor, features editor, op-ed/billboards editor, web master, sports editor, volunteer coordinator, production assistant, archivist, distribution, graphics editor**. Deadline: Sept. 11 at 4:30 p.m. For more details or job descriptions, drop by the office (SUB B011), talk to Gillian or Meesha or look at our on-line postings at http://www.campusworklink .com

FOR SALE

One **Yamaha trombone** in perfect condition with beginners' books, $300, **Mac 150 laptop** with Stylewriter printer, $300 and **'81 Classic Volvo** in excellent condition, 2-door, sunroof, cd player, $3,300. Call 642-6270.

Panasonic phone/fax machine. Bought Oct. '97 for $300, asking $200. Comes with manual & roll of paper. **Black, wrought-iron style daybed.** Bought Aug. '96 for $200, asking $100. Call Diana at 472-1899.

HEY YOU

Happy 'b' day to the sweetest, cutest, softest, smartest, most lovable 3 year old girl-dog named Corbi-la I know. Have a great day girl. xo

Happy 'b' day to Emi, hope you have the best Canadian birthday ever. xo the Martlet, Torra & Buster.

Mari, it's your birthday (soon) and we're thrilled you're back - you've been missed. xo

Remember to breathe.

BILLBOARD RATES	
students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines
hey you!	$1/issue

All religious clubs and organizations advertising on the billboards page must adhere to the following statement: *"Everyone is welcome. We oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender and sexuality."*

Public Service Commission of Canada | Commission de la fonction publique du Canada

More Opportunities Than You Can Imagine

with the Public Service of Canada

POST-SECONDARY RECRUITMENT

Are you: • a recent university grad - or will be by June 2001?
• mobile to other locations across Canada?

We have sixteen participating departments which will be hiring in 33 career areas:

• Economists • Engineers • Foreign Service Officers
• Management and Consular Affairs Officers
• Informatics Specialists • Laboratory Technicians
• Commerce Officers • Management Trainees
• Junior Consultants/Analysts • Nurses
• and many more!!!

These careers will offer you the opportunity to work in your field of study and to use your skills and expertise in the service of Canada.

For information on these opportunities, drop by one of our Public Information Forums at:

University of Victoria Graduate Student Centre
Room 114 (Multipurpose Room)

Tuesday, September 12, 2000 between **9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**

Thursday, September 21, 2000 between **1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.**

You can also check out our Web site to apply on-line for the Fall 2000 campaign or pick up an application form from your Campus Career Centre. Watch out as well for the Winter Post-Secondary Recruitment campaign coming in January 2001.

We are committed to Employment Equity.

Vous pouvez obtenir ces renseignements en français.

http:// jobs.gc.ca

Canada

FUTONS FUTONS FUTONS

BEANBAGS

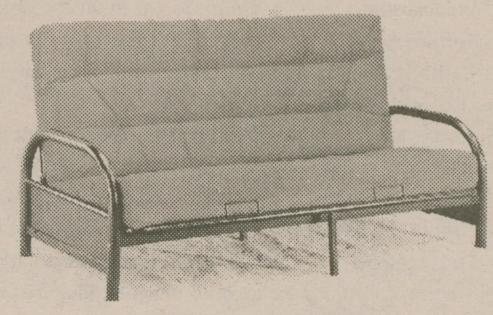
BOOKSHELVES

FUTONS

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

We will meet or beat any advertised price for same futon.

STUDENT DEAL $249.00



6" Double Futon Mattress & Foldable Frame

Double Futon Mattress $129.00

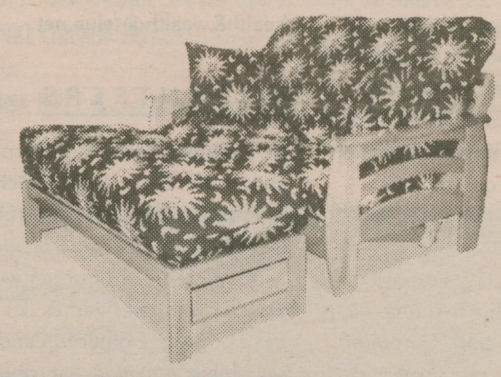
Double Futon Bedframe $129.00

DRESSERS

Computer Desks from $119.00

SOLID PINE SHELVING

Bookshelves from $49.00



DESKS

CALL 381-4575
FUTON HOTLINE

Student Discount 10% off non-sale items

SPACESAVERS

University Futons & Furniture

Affordable Furniture Alternatives

12 piece Futon & Furniture Grouping

- Futon and Frame
- Choice of Colour
- 5 piece Dinette
- 3 piece Coffee and End Tables & 2 Lamps

$899.00

PINE SHELVING

915 Fort St.

SEPT 2000

WELCOME BACK

Welcome to the UVic Students' Society

Calendar of Events inside

UVSS WEEKS OF WELCOME (WoW) FESTIVITIES

CORN & MUSIC FEST

September 15th and 22nd follow the sound of good music, or the smell of delicious food barbecuing at your Students' Society Corn and Music Fest located outside the main SUB entrance. It's free, and everyone is welcome. This event has been such a success in the past that the tradition is being upheld..

CLUBS AND COURSE UNION DAYS

Not sure which club to join? Not sure which clubs are even out there? Confused on how to reach your faculty's course union to get involved? Worry no longer, Clubs and Course Union Days are there to help you to find the organization that most interests you so that you can get involved. **September 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th** outside the SUB, clubs and course unions will have tables to answer all your questions.

A RIOTOUS ARRAY OF SOUND

This year your Students' Society is throwing a free concert to welcome all students, new and returning. On **September 8th**, in front of the Student Union Building, a riotous array of Victoria talent will dazzle you all afternoon. Starting at 1:00, the sounds of **The McGillicuddys**, **Lift** and **Whip** will be carried across campus, as well as the airwaves of CFUV (your very own radio station), to ease you back into school.

Get Involved With your Students' Society

SEPTEMBER WEEKS OF WELCOME EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
3 ***FRONT OF THE LINE*** SUB TOURS 8-6	4	5 THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY ORIENTATION	6 **CLASSES START** **EARTH FEST**	7	8 **FREE CONCERT 1 -6** **WHIP, Lift + The McGillicuddys** Native Students Union welcome back social with **INDIGENOUS RHYTHMS** in the **Michele Pujol Room** 5:30 to 10:00	9
10	11	12 **CLUBS & COURSE UNION DAYS** **STUDENT UNION BUILDING** **9 - 4** BARBEQUE	13 **CLUBS & COURSE UNION DAYS** **STUDENT UNION BUILDING** **9 - 4** BARBEQUE	14 CAMPUS TOWN Uvic Pride Collective Open House (B118 SUB) 12:00 to 4:00 Women's Centre Open House (B107 SUB) 12:00 to 4:00	15 **CORN & MUSIC FEST** **2:30- 3:30 EARTHMEN** **4-5 STINGRAY** CAMPUS TOWN	16
17	18	19 **CLUBS & COURSE UNION DAYS** **STUDENT UNION BUILDING** **9 - 4** BARBEQUE	20 **CLUBS & COURSE UNION DAYS** **STUDENT UNION BUILDING** **9 - 4** BARBEQUE	21 **VOLUNTEER FAIR** (VOLUNTEER VICTORIA) Women's Centre Clothing Swap (B107 SUB) 12:00 to 4:00	22 **CORN & MUSIC FEST** **2:30- 3:30 EEP OP ORP** **4-5 NO ONE ELSE**	23
24	25	26	27 MINIMUM WAGE DEBATE LECTURE SERIES	28	29	30

IMAGINUS

CFUV - YOUR VERY OWN RADIO STATION

CFUV broadcasts at FM102 and 2290 watts, covering all of Greater Victoria, the Western Communities, The San Juan and Gulf Islands, and most of Vancouver Island. CFUV is also now in REAL AUDIO, broadcasting world wide on the internet. CFUV has a loyal listening audience that chooses from a weekly schedule of over one hundred different programs . It is diverse, refreshing and Victoria's only alternative to commercial radio. Join CFUV in welcoming the students back to school with live radio broadcasts during Weeks Of Welcome and throughout the school year. Pick up a copy of the stations magazine, Offbeat, for reviews, interesting articles, great art and photography! Get involved by becoming a member of the Radio Club and join our broadcast team! Contribute to Offbeat and show the world that you are the creative mind you always said you were!

Campus Town:

Victoria comes to Campus!

Businesses, services and community organizations with stuff you need and stuff you want for your student life. Learn more about Victoria, sign up needed services, check out local recreation and entertainment or take advantage of special student deals!

Sept 14 & 15 - 10am - 5pm in the Michéle Pujol Room in the SUB

BUSINESS AND OTHER SERVICES IN THE SUB:

Cinecenta - Cinecenta, the most 'happening' movie theatre in town, has a wide range of programming. The 24-hour film information line is 721-8365.

Felicita's - The pub has a great selection of micro-brews, a full restaurant menu, pool table, dartboard, and a fully licensed summer outdoor patio!

Vertigo - The premiere night spot on the Island, Vertigo features lots of local and headlining acts, the best sound system in town and a great dance floor.

Escapes Video Arcade - A great place to Escape!

SUBtext -Students can buy used textbooks cheaper than new and can consign their textbooks and CDs, plus there's an excellent selection of magazines and newspapers.

ZAP! Copy and Fax - Students have access to cheap photocopying, tree-free copying, colour copying, a fax machine, old exams, binding service, lamination, fiery output, and a T-shirt/ mug press.

Munchie Bar - The Cinecenta Munchie Bar sells the finest coffee on campus: Torrefazione.

Bean There - Coffee/ espresso bar, yummy baked goods and pizza.

International Grill & Health Food Bar - The food outlets offer a wide range of hot and cold food items. It is connected to the Michele Pujol Room which acts as a cafeteria/ study space during the day.

Information Booth - The Grand Central Station of the SUB, the Info Booth sells SUB event tickets, administers the Health Plan, and the Universal Bus Pass, approves posters,has applications for student employment in the SUB, pharmacy drop-off and pick-up and answers general questions.

General Office - This office is the administrative centre of the UVSS, providing SUB room bookings, keys, mail, paycheques, and other important services.

On the Fringe - UVic's very own hair salon with student rates.

Travel Cuts - Largest student owned Travel Agency in the world.

Resource Centre - Home to.the Board of Directors, drop by (SUB 103) or call 721-8366 if you have questions or want to get involved.

Recreations - Recycled clothing and goods outlet with integrity. Visit them beside the Munchie Bar for great buys!

CANADIAN FEDERATION of STUDENTS (CFS)

The University of Victoria Students' Society is Local 44 of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The CFS is an alliance of over 60 university and college student unions across Canada, with over 400,000 members. Since 1981, the Federation has been working to build a high quality system of post-secondary education which is accessible to all by lobbying, conducting research, mobilizing members and organizing campaigns. If you are interested in becoming active in social and student issues, drop by the Resource Centre in the SUB B103. There are many campaigns, committees, constituency groups, clubs and course unions to join on campus.The CFS also offers services that make being a student just a little bit easier.

With your **Studentsaver Card**, available at the Info Booth or the Resource Centre, get discounts on goods and services throughout Victoria. For a listing of participating stores look for the posters, visit the Studentsaver website @ www.cfs-fcee.ca, or drop by the Resource Centre (B103) in the SUB.

Travel for less with the free **International Student Identity Card (ISIC)**. To get your ISIC, visit the Info Booth or Travel Cuts in the SUB. Bring proof of full time Student ID and a passport size photo.

OTHER SERVICES:

HEALTH PLAN

All undergraduate students who are registered in 3.0 or more academic units per term or 6.0 units total for the winter session are automatically assessed $94.00 for the UVSS Extended Health Plan. The Health Plan at UVic has a ten year history and was introduced by referendum vote. This plan provides for expenses and medical benefits not covered by the basic BC Medical Services Plan. The plan highlights include:

- 80% reimbursement for prescription drugs (including oral contraceptives). The cap covers up to $3 in dispensing fees.
- medical expense reimbursement (eg. physiotherapy, massage therapy, etc.)
- emergency ambulance expense
- dental surgery resulting from accidents
- insurance coverage for accidental death and dismemberment
- 60 day out -of province medical insurance
- tutoring fees in the event of illness or injury preventing school attendance

Family coverage is also available for an additional fee until Sept 30. Students can opt-out of the plan at the UVSS Info Booth upon presentation of proof of having comparable alternate extended health coverage in another plan.

OMBUDSPERSON

The Ombudsperson, Martine Conway is available to provide assistance to students who feel let down or unfairly treated by the university system. Problems commonly dealt with by the Ombudsperson include:

- Grade Appeals
- Admissions and re-registration appeals
- Bureaucratic red tape
- Complaints about Professors
- Housing difficulties
- Accusations of cheating
- Requirement to withdraw

The Ombudsperson's office is located on the upper level of the SUB in room B205. Students should call to make an appointment 721-8357 or email: ombuddy@uvic.ca. The office of the Ombudsperson is solely funded by students.
www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson

THE OPEN UVIC RESOURCE SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE (OUR SAC)

OUR SAC can provide confidential, caring support, information, and referral on a drop-in basis to anyone in the UVic community affected by sexualized violence. They have a resource library that can be accessed by everyone in the University community. Drop by SUB B027 or call 472-4388. For more information about this centre or other community services check out the web page at www.uvic.ca/oursac or email us at oursac@uvic.ca

Drop-in hours: Mon all day
Tues to Thurs - 9 to 12 noon